

First Congregational Church
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington, VT 05201

June 2019



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



Lecture Series at the Old First Church

**Third Wednesdays at 1pm at the Old First Church
Open to the Public**

Our summer lecture series continues at the Old First Church with Reverend Clarke giving a talk on June 19 at 1:00 PM in the church sanctuary. The lectures will focus on the history of the church and of the Old Bennington Community. There is no charge to attend and the lectures are open to anyone within the church as well as to the general community as part of our historical outreach. Spread the word and invite a friend!

The Topics will be:

June 19	Church, State and Community in Early Bennington and the New Hampshire Grants	Rev Clarke
July 17	Battle of Bennington and its impact on Old Bennington	Robert Hoar
August 21	Old Bennington Cemetery Tour	Charles Dewey / Vicky Printz
September 18	Settlement of Bennington Walking tour of Old Bennington	Bob Tegart



The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church (Old First Church)

June 2019

FROM THE MINISTER

Last Sunday after church Paul and Stacy broke out the table, chair and pedestal in the stair hall, opened the cabinet doors and began another season of Open Church. Of the Memorial Day weekend visitors who came into the church we did not greet the “first visitor of the year” as one might a spring robin but we were happy just the same. Open Church is a worthwhile outreach and service to all who come to Bennington to visit whether they be fans of history, architecture, bikers (motorized or not), lovers of poetry, lovers of art and craft or just lovers of life on a journey.

Though most visible in the summer and fall “Open Church” is not the only way of being of service. Not long ago our larger work in the community was the topic of a sermon. The response was strong. There is a desire to make the church of service and involved in our community. Some are there each week and in season doing this in “unsung” ways. It is good that the church is also looking about to see how we can do more—not for ourselves, but for our neighbors and those here who need our presence. Programming is being renewed and offered for children and opportunities for support and learning are on the horizon. Thanks to all—yearly stalwarts and new thinkers—who are making this possible. Keep posted on our weekly blog and the website for opportunities as they come.

Our tag sale is near and it is the one time some will attend a “church function” at all in the year (yes, some even miss Christmas!). What impression do people have when they come to the sale? When the question comes who we are and what we do it is easy to see it is more than a building; it is the friendships we make that sustain us over the year in good and bad and the faith that urges us to look beyond ourselves to see what is to be done.

We do have the building, of course. There has been a lot of concern about needed work and repairs. This May the church applied for and was awarded a grant to develop a brief but comprehensive “conditions assessment” of the meetinghouse. This report will be funded through the Robert Sincerbeaux Fund of the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Funding will be matched with a similar amount

from the church and we hope it will be done by early summer. Part of the total \$800 will include look at our slate roof and its condition among other things. From there we will have a better basis to understand what our building priorities and needs are.

We thank the Preservation Trust and its Sincerbeaux fund for jump starting this process. As an aside, if you want to see a good video of the church from “the air” so to speak, go to our web site: <http://oldfirstchurchbenn.org/about/>

Otherwise...on to the tag sale!

Rev. Ken Clarke

OPEN CHURCH

As Reverend Clarke mentioned the Open Church season has officially begun, and we look forward to a busy year welcoming 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 the Tuesday afternoon shift as well as Saturday afternoon shifts.

If you have never hosted and are hesitant to volunteer, please know that the MOST important function of Open Church is to have our doors open and welcome our 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 Betsy Ehrenfreund 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.	
Wednesday a.m.	Kathy & Betsy
Wednesday p.m.	Roberta & Jane
Thursday a.m.	Patrice & Vicky
Thursday p.m.	Marietta & Walt
Friday a.m.	Claudia & Jeannette
Friday p.m.	Mary & Amy
Saturday a.m.	Muriel
Saturday p.m.	
Sunday p.m.	Stacy & Paul

1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Vermont 05201

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Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

MONUMENTAL TAG SALE

Come one, come all to the 12th Annual Old First Monumental Tag Sale at the Barn, on **Saturday, June 8, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**. Be sure to spread the word to your friends and family!

We hope your boxes of donations are packed and ready to go for our **kick-off luncheon after church June 2nd**. Donations can also be dropped off during our set up week, Monday through Thursday, June 3rd through the 6th. 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 set up at **10:00 AM on Wednesday** and we encourage you to donate your larger items Wednesday and Thursday throughout the day. If you need arrangement for pick up please call Marsha Pilachowski 447-3868 or the church office.

On **SALE DAY**, Saturday, June 8th, we hope that everyone will participate in some way: by volunteering to work, by providing food for the concession and/or by coming to shop. Again this year we will have our Silent Auction room set up for bidding on special items. Also this year Bill Hartz and Larry Ross will be manning the hot dog cart for your lunchtime dining pleasure! Desserts will be available at our indoor food concession as well!!!

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:

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.
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 picked up by Salvation Army for donation.

Our Tag Sale is a fun way to support our church and the larger community. Proceeds from the sale will benefit general church projects and the Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Service.

Thanks to all who have already volunteered to help, but even if you have not signed up, we hope you will come anytime during the week or on sale day to lend a hand! We have great fun discovering treasures and getting to know each other better. Good times ahead! Don't miss out! ☺

CHRISTIAN ED:

We continue with our Thursday Christian Ed series and all are welcome:

June 6th – no event

June 13th 6pm – 7pm (at the Barn) - **Mommy and Me Yoga** and mindful meditation (or Grandma and me/auntie and me). Sam Strubel (yoga teacher and North Bennington School Elementary teacher) will lead an open forum of mommy and me yoga for ALL ages. Ages newborn to 18 for kiddos and any age for adults. The cost is \$10 per mommy and me pair. Snacks and drinks provided. After 45 minutes the group will take a 5 minute break to let kiddos get a snack and change into jammies. Then we will listen to music and read a poem or reflective reading from the Lent reflections booklet of 2019.

June 20th 6pm- 7pm – Let's kick off summer with a **community walk!** Meet your neighbors, meet friends! Walk for ice cream! Walk with ice cream! Join us for a walk around the Monument and flying kites on the lawn and **EATING ICE CREAM!** Free ice cream and fun!

PICNIC ON THE GREEN JUNE 23RD

The Old First Church's annual picnic on the Village Green follows worship on Sunday, June 23rd 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.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group will meet next on Thursday, June 20, 6:30 PM at Pat Guerrero's home to discuss the book *Educated* by Carol Westover. 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. Our next meeting will take place in September where we will be selecting books for the 2019/2020 season.

FROM THE ORGANIST

On June 2, 1857, English composer Sir Edward Elgar was born and we will hear his music as prelude, offertory, and postlude as we celebrate his birthday. On the 16th of June, the choir will be singing "A House of Prayer" by Barbara York. The piece was written for baritone, Peter Subers, with chorus, piano, and English Horn and Peter Subers will be singing with us! Lyndon Moors will be playing the English Horn in the piece, and is also playing a new piece by Carson Cooman with organ accompaniment as the prelude.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers to the family of Elsie Paris. Elsie passed away on May 25th at the age of 95. **A memorial service will be held at the Old First Church on Sunday, June 30 at 3:00 p.m.** Elsie and her husband Paul, who predeceased her in 2002, had been members of the Old First Church since 1979.

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 AM: Muriel PM: Jane	
2 PM: Paul & Stacy Tag Sale Luncheon at the Barn Communion Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	3	4	5	6	7	8 AM: Muriel & Betsy PM: Patrice	
Tag Sale Set Up Week						Betty Horner memorial service 11 AM at the church	12th Annual Monumental Tag Sale 9 AM – 3 PM
9 PM: Paul & Stacy 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	10 Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7 PM, Barn	11 Deacon's Mtg. 4 PM, Barn Trustee Meeting 5:30 PM, Barn	12	13 Old First Church Mommy & Me Yoga 6-7 PM, Barn	14	15 AM: Muriel PM: _____ AAUW Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM	
16 PM: Paul & Stacy 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister Father's Day	17	18	19	20 Women's Book Group 6:30 PM Pat Guerrero's house Ice Cream Social/Community Walk 6-7 PM, Barn	21	22 AM: Muriel PM: _____	
23 PM: Paul & Stacy Church Picnic on the Green 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	24	25	26	27	28	29 AM: Muriel PM: _____	
30 PM: Paul & Stacy Elsie Paris Memorial Service 3 PM at the Church 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister							

DEACONS ON CALL:

Pat Guerrero & Bill Hartz

USHERS:

6/2: Pat Guerrero & Bill Hartz
6/9: Sandy Bechtel & Evie Wild
6/16: Don & Lynda Swanda
6/23: Marsha & Dave Pilachowski
6/30: Bill Hartz & Sue Katz

READERS:

6/2: Marsha Pilachowski
6/9: David Varker
6/16: Dave Pilachowski
6/23: Claudia Dalton
6/30: Bill Gordon

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

6/2: Tag Sale Luncheon @ the Barn
6/9:
6/16: _____ & Betsy Ehrenfreund
6/23: Church Picnic on the Green
6/30:

FLOWERS:

6/2: Gene Marie Callahan
6/9:
6/16:
6/23:
6/30: