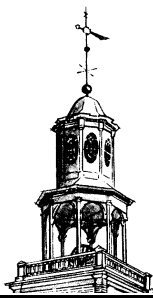


First Congregational Church
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington, VT 05201

October 2019

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





The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church
(Old First Church)

October 2019

FROM THE MINISTER

On an October afternoon standing near the cemetery side of the church, perhaps even in the graveyard, looking toward the belfry or perhaps out over the valley toward the Green Mountains by Woodford and toward Glastonbury, things look quiet and peaceful. Perhaps that is one reason why people come here, part of busy, long days on the road seeing this and that, but winding up here, a little away from the traffic sensing beauty, agelessness and a spiritual presence. We crave that perspective and calm in our lives—even when we take time off we tend fill it with activity. Here all that activity comes to a rest, a literal resting place, and perhaps in that unknown eternity a glimpse of what we were looking for all along.

I'm glad for that, but it is also true that beneath the beauty we can enjoy, others are dealing with hard problems, many never voiced. This is true in everyone's life. A surface calm may not show the sorrow or the worry or the pain we carry. Today, however, is not a message about our inner lives. A similar but practical thing is true for the church as well. Beneath the stillness and beauty and lively friendships we share, church needs and operations challenge us. The trustees had a very full summer and September looking at details others might never see. The new refrigerator and cabinet in the Barn. The testing of the water supply and pipes deep (enough) underground. The process of preparing and figuring out how grants and our own limited funds can repair masonry and do the hundred other things our serene but always challenging buildings require. Greasing the gearing so that our Sunday bell can ring out effortlessly (or nearly so!). Seeing to the rewiring and the new electrical outlets in the meetinghouse. Rearranging the entryway space each Sunday from worship and fellowship so we might welcome tourists for another week.

That paragraph could go longer. This sense of peace and beauty requires work. Such things do not drop into our lives but come graciously as we prepare by working and listening for the good things God might do.

Thanks giving is for November...but it is always right to give thanks to God and each other. Look at this October with its glory and brief beauty and say thanks for things seen and unseen. Let us not forget the dedicated and constant work that makes each good day what it is.

- Rev. Ken Clarke

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Tuesday afternoon *Bible Study* group continues to meet at the Barn at 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted. All are welcome!

The Jewish Roots of Christianity

Adult Education Lecture series

given by Jennifer Daks

Lehman scholar - Hebrew College, Boston



12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Barn

October 13th "The Fourth Commandment"
(The Sabbath Day)

November 10th "The Old Testament"
(The Hebrew Bible - The Torah)

December 8th "Light in the Darkness"
(Christmas and Chanukah)

1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Vermont 05201

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Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

OPEN CHURCH

Though there are still many green leaves on the trees “Leaf-Peeper Season” at Old First Church has begun in full force!!! Our docents have been very busy welcoming visitors from far and wide. They chat awhile and relate a bit of history which leaves our guests feeling a sense of connection. The donation box fills easily when people feel the warmth of our welcome! We owe a debt of gratitude to our wonderful and charming guides for making this a successful program year after year.



With the late fall season we are experiencing in the northeast we will play it by ear as to when to officially close Open Church on a daily (or semi-daily) basis. Beyond our estimated closing date of October 20th we encourage our guides to feel free to open the church to tourists on their regular day or any other time if inspired.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR OPEN CHURCH TEAM:

Ann Bugbee, Paul Capriola, Stacy Carreau, Claudia Dalton, Jim Dilley, Patty Duffy, Betsy Ehrenfreund, Paul Goodrich, Lou & Marie Guariniello, Bill Hartz, Ann Herrick, Marietta Hibbard, Sue Katz, Walt Klinger, Mary LaCasse, Brandy Lesser, Jeannette Lesser, Don Miller, Patrice Nolan, Dave & Marsha Pilachowski, Vicky Printz, Jane Radocchia, Muriel Rice, Wendy Schmitt, Don Swanda, Bob Tegart, Amy Tronsen, Kathy Wagenknecht and Roberta Webb.

OPEN CHURCH WRAP UP MEETING AND DOCENT LUNCHEON:

We invite our docent team and all who might be interested in learning more about Open Church to the Barn on Sunday, November 17 after worship for a wrap up meeting and lunch.

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP

The Women’s Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 24, 6:30 PM at Wendy Schmitt’s house to discuss the book *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. If you would like more information about the Women’s Book Group, feel free to attend the next meeting or speak with Wendy Schmitt.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

As we enter the last quarter of the year we need to turn our attention toward the workings of the church, which includes planning the budget for 2020, filling advocacy and board vacancies and having our congregation determine their financial support to the church. In late October a letter and pledge card will be mailed. Please be thinking about what God calls you to give as each of us plays our part in the work and worship of the church. Pledge cards can be returned to the church office or dropped in the birdhouse size wooden church which will be set out in the narthex on Sunday mornings leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 10.

MOMMY AND ME YOGA:

Mommy and Me Yoga: Join us on Thursday nights at the Barn (Monument Circle), 6–7pm for Mommy and Me Yoga and mindful meditation (or Grandma and me/auntie and me). Sam Strubel (yoga teacher and N. Bennington School Elementary teacher) will lead an open forum of mommy and me yoga for kids ages newborn to 6 and any age for adults. The cost is \$10 per mommy and me. 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 our Lenten devotional booklet.





JOIN us after worship on **Sunday, Oct. 20 for the annual Harvest Meal**, a fall-time gathering that we look forward to every year! We bring our favorite seasonal dishes to this meal. This can be a newly discovered recipe or one that you fondly remember from childhood. Be sure to let us know if you can attend and what kind of dish you plan to bring to share (main dish, salad, dessert). Sign up on the BLOG or contact the church office. We will be setting up the dining room on Saturday the 19th at noon, if you are able, stop by to lend a hand!

FREE SUNDAY SUPPER

Our church hosts the Free Sunday Supper next on November 10th at the Second Congregational Church. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal and for food items. Can you help?

Spaghetti	Parmesan cheese	Salad
Meatballs	Italian Bread	Italian dressing
		Brownies

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Bible Study 4 PM at the Barn Old Bennington Trustee mtg. 7 PM, Barn	2 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta MPCC Social Hall use 9:30-11:30 AM	3 AM: Roberta, Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt Mommy & Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn	4 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Patty & Jane	5 AM: Muriel & _____ PM: Vicky & Roberta
		6 PM: Paul Capriola Allard family Barn use 10 AM – 0 PM Communion Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	7 AM: Sue & Marsha PM: Ann	8 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Deacon's Meeting 4 PM at the Barn Trustee Meeting 5 PM at the Barn	9 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta	10 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt Mommy & Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn
13 PM: Paul & Stacy Jewish Roots of Christianity class 12:30 – 3PM, Barn 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	14 AM: Sue & Marsha PM: Ann Old Bennington Planning Committee mtg. 7:30 PM, Barn <i>Columbus Day</i>	15 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Bible Study 4 PM at the Barn	16 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta MPCC Social Hall use 8-10 AM	17 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt Old Bennington Center Cemetery mtg. 3 PM, Barn Mommy & Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn	18 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Patty & Jane MPCC Social Hall use 1:30 PM	19 AM: Muriel & _____ PM: Betsy & _____ Harvest Meal set up 12 PM at the Barn
20 PM: Paul & Stacy Harvest Meal following worship 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	21 MPCC Social Hall use 9-10 AM	22 Bible Study 4 PM at the Barn	23	24 Women's Book Group, 6:30 PM, Wendy's home Mommy & Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn	25 MPCC staff training 11:30- 4:30 PM Social Hall	26 Goodrich family Barn use, 12-5 PM Neumann/Spahdakis wedding 2PM at the church. Rev. Clarke officiating
27 Nobel family Barn use 11 AM – 5 PM 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	28 Center for Restorative Justice staff/board mtg. 2-5 PM, Barn	29 Bible Study 4 PM at the Barn	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>		

DEACONS ON CALL:

Jeannette Lesser and Marsha Pilachowski

USHERS:

10/6: Marietta Hibbard, Jeannette Lesser & Claudia Dalton

10/13: Dave & Marsha Pilachowski

10/20: Donna & Sam Jones

10/27: Audrey & Larry Pietrucha

READERS:

10/6: Jim Dilley

10/13: Audrey Pietrucha

10/20: Anastasia Gauthier

10/27: Dave Pilachowski

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

10/6: Anastasia & Fischer Gauthier & Pat Ross

10/13: Audrey Pietrucha & _____

10/20: Harvest Meal

10/27: _____ & _____

FLOWERS:

10/6: Bill Hartz IMO his wife Linda

10/13:

10/20:

10/27: