

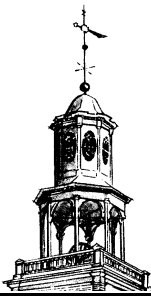
First Congregational Church
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington, VT 05201

August 2019

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



Summer Worship at 10:00 A.M. in July and August



The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church
(Old First Church)

August 2019

FROM THE MINISTER

Mid-summer breaks us away from routine and gives a chance to view things with a fresh perspective; at least that is how the ideal summer months are supposed to unfold. Perhaps that is the case for you. Indeed the weather has been “typical” in the best sense of that word. While people have taken breaks and done new things, we are busy at the church still. The summer guides welcome and converse with visitors and introduce not only our place of worship but so much of Bennington’s history.

As we look to the coming months we have several opportunities for study and new perspectives as well. Church member Jen Daks has volunteered to offer an introduction to “The Jewish Roots of Christianity” described in this newsletter. Our monthly lectures continue into September with a cemetery tour in August and a walking tour of Old Bennington in September. Details, again, in this newsletter. We have also begun a Tuesday Bible study though we are not yet on a regular weekly schedule, we are beginning to meet now and will continue to the fall. Call the office for details as we are not yet meeting every Tuesday.

The Trustees with the help of a few others have been concentrating on assessing the physical (buildings) and financial needs our church with the aim of remaining healthy and tackling any problem before it becomes unmanageable. A Robert Sincerbeaux grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont allowed for an architectural assessment of our meetinghouse including a drone in the sky examination of our roof and bell tower giving us a perspective not usually found. (Those interested in a skyward view of the church from a drone viewpoint should check out the video that can be played on our church homepage!)

Perspective is what counts. We all have one...perhaps, time to time, we need more than one. Here we try to be open to many perspectives...beginning with the traditions we have and keep, the faith we share, the scripture which informs our lives, the visitors who come, newcomers who add strength and aid, old friends, and prophets, even. In one life there can be many perspectives as well...with time, or circumstance, with new wisdom, service or love. This summer, get some rest...yes...but may we each add a new perspective as well!

Rev. Ken Clarke

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Our Summer Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday afternoons, 4:00 PM at the Barn.
(Please note, no meeting on Aug. 6)
All are welcome!

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER AND MEETING MONTHLY:

The Jewish Roots of Christianity
Adult Education Lecture series
given by Jennifer Daks
Lehman scholar - Hebrew College, Boston



Explore the historical and spiritual roots in the Judeo-Christian tradition, including an introduction to learning Hebrew

Lecture series will be held on the second Sunday of each month through 2019, in the Barn following the morning worship service - lunch included

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

September 8th "Turning Back to G-d"
(Teshuva)

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)

**Email the Old First Church office if you have any questions
AND
to sign up by August 15th 2019
so that required materials may be ordered and provided at no cost
office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net**

1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Vermont 05201

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Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

NATIONAL BELL RINGING ON INDEPENDENCE DAY



For the sixth year our church participated in the NATIONAL BELL RINGING CELEBRATION on Thursday, July fourth. According to the Bennington Rotary President Jerry Albert, Congress passed a Concurrent Resolution in 1963 to establish a bell ringing ceremony on Independence Day. This resolution asks that civic and community leaders promote the bell-ringing practices on the holiday, so the Bennington Rotary decided that they would be the ones to hold this ceremony each year, using the famed bell from the USS Bennington.

Across the nation, different communities celebrated at exactly 2PM and that is when 13 of Bennington's Rotarians rang the bell once each to signify the 13 original states. Then, the bell was rang one more time for Vermont, the fourteenth state. Area churches were invited to join the bell ringing ceremony at a specific time so bells could be heard far and wide! Thank you to our bell ringer John Hill.

HYMN SING SUNDAY



August 11th is "Hymn Sing Sunday"! Come to worship at 10:00 a.m. to hear prayers and scripture read and sing a verse or two of favorite hymns that have been requested.

If you have a favorite hymn you would like to hear, contact the church office by August 7th or fill out a BLOG found in the Sunday morning bulletin.

2019 RUG RAFFLE

This (2' x 3') "Covered Bridge" rug, based on a McAdoo rug design, was hooked and donated by church member Ann Herrick.



TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR AT OPEN CHURCH

\$5 EACH OR 6 FOR \$20

Drawing will be held on December 1, 2019

LECTURE SERIES AT THE OLD FIRST CHURCH

**Third Wednesdays at 1:00 PM
Open to the Public**

Our summer lecture series continues at the Old First Church with Charles Dewey and Vicky Printz leading a tour of the Old Bennington Center Cemetery on August 21, meeting in the church sanctuary at 1:00 PM. The monthly lectures 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:

August 21 Old Bennington Cemetery Tour
Charles Dewey / Vicky Printz

September 18 Settlement of Bennington
Walking tour of Old Bennington
Bob Tegart

OPEN CHURCH

The guides are enjoying greeting visitors from near and far at the church each week and we are so grateful to everyone who volunteers his or her time to host. Every weekday and Saturday morning shift is covered but we continually need help on Saturday afternoons. 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, contact Betsy Ehrenfreund or the church office.

Fun fact: the church still holds the #1 position on "21 Things to do in Bennington" on the travel website: TRIP ADVISOR

WELCOME LITTLE ONE...

We are thrilled to announce the birth of our first grandchild, Quinn Marie, who was born on July 28th to our daughter Megan and son-in-law Sean. Both momma and baby are doing well and all are adjusting to their new rolls. Let the spoiling begin!



-Nancy & Brad Andrews

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt	2 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & Don	3 AM: Muriel PM: _____
4 PM: Paul & Stacy Communion Sunday 10:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	5 AM: Sue & Bill PM: Ann	6 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Old Bennington Trustee mtg. 7 PM, Barn	7 AM: Betsy & _____ PM: Jane & Roberta	8 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt	9 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & Amy Fortney family Barn use 11 AM- 2 PM	10 AM: Muriel PM: _____ Hoag family Barn use 11 AM-4 PM	
11 PM: Paul & Stacy  10:00 AM worship Hymn Sing Sunday	12 AM: Sue & Bill PM: Ann Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7 PM, Barn	13 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Bible Study, 4 PM at the Barn Trustee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Barn	14 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta Lecture Series at the church 1 PM presentation and cemetery tour by Charles Dewey & Vicky Printz	15 AM: Ann B, Patrice & Vicky PM: Marietta & Walt	16 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & Amy	17 AM: Muriel PM: _____ Closing @ 3:30 Lapham/Long 4:30 PM Wedding Rev. Clarke officiating Friends of the Monument Barn use all day	
18 PM: Paul & Stacy Friends of the Monument Barn use 9AM – 3PM 10:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	19 AM: Sue & Bill PM: Ann	20 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Bible Study, 4 PM at the Barn	21 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta	22 AM: Ann B, Patrice & Vicky PM: Marietta & Walt	23 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & Amy	24 AM: Muriel PM: _____ Mahar family Barn use 10 AM – 3PM	
25 PM: Paul & Stacy 10:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	26 AM: Sue & Bill PM: Ann	27 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob Bible Study, 4 PM at the Barn	28 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta	29 AM: Ann B, Patrice & Vicky PM: Marietta & Walt	30 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & Amy	31 AM: Muriel PM: Ann Blakeney family Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM	

DEACONS ON CALL:

Sandy Bechtel & Amy Tronsen

USHERS:

8/4: Sandy Bechtel & Amy Tronsen

8/11: Bill Hartz & Sue Katz

8/18: Marie & Lou Guariniello

8/25: Stacy Carreau & Paul Goodrich

READERS:

8/4: Bill Gordon

8/11: Patrice Nolan

8/18: Claudia Dalton

8/25: Anastasia Gauthier

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

8/4: Pat Guerrero & Darlene Munson

8/11:

8/18: Claudia Dalton, Mary LaCasse & Jeannette Lesser

8/25: Anastasia & Fischer Gauthier & _____

FLOWERS:

8/4: Amber & Noah Langford

8/11: Patrice Nolan IMO her mother, Joan Nolan-Morneau

8/18: Mary LaCasse IMO her parents, Rufus & Betty Walker

8/25: Anastasia & Fischer Gauthier
IMO Kit Roberts