

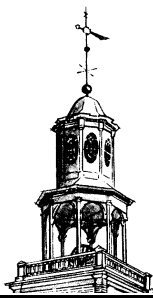
First Congregational Church  
1 Monument Circle  
Old Bennington, VT 05201

*September 2019*

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



Sunday worship time returns to 11:00 A.M.



# The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church  
(Old First Church)

September 2019

## FROM THE MINISTER

September has begun and we are on the 11 a.m. worship schedule again. Summer sped by and the effect was amplified by plenty going on here at the church. We began a Tuesday Bible study which has had a great response. Anyone is welcome to join in at any point. This month we are in the midst of the Book of Acts and will finish that and proceed to Paul's letters as fall comes upon us. Jen Daks is leading an interesting course on the Hebrew roots of Christianity, you will find details of that elsewhere but I must tell you that the group has pretty much reached its limit of 20 persons. As it is said, a good problem to have.

We're looking forward to the return of the choir in Sunday worship after the summer break and there will be other chances for fellowship and service in the coming months. Anastasia Gauthier has undertaken a number of projects and it's never out of line to check in with her and see how you might help there. After Easter this spring in a sermon I mildly challenged us to look around, pick up a project or see a need and know that it was in you, and this church, to respond. It seems many have...and how good it is to report that the church has been active and humming all summer! Usually I commend our guide program in the September newsletter; see how much there is before we even give thanks for their continued great work.

Finally, the trustees have been quite busy as well. In June, having received a Sincerbeaux Grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont, we engaged Mark Wesner of Keefe and Wesner, Architects to complete a survey and needs analysis of our meetinghouse. The report is in and the trustees are busy digesting its recommendations and priorities. It is available to anyone by contacting the church office and makes good reading. One frequent concern has been our roof, and based on a detailed inspection of the roof by a drone which took many up close photos that someone with a camera in hand would never attempt, the need for significant repairs appears manageable—not inexpensive—but certainly a bit less than feared. On the other hand, there is a long list of things to do to keep our building (and buildings) in good order which require time, money and commitment.

To go with the above work, the trustees and others are beginning to set sights on our financial base with regard to these needs. We have done so much, and we do so much, for our faith, for ourselves and each other, for the larger neighborhood and beyond, that we need to ensure good work continues. We witness to what the spirit means—in God's love and our sense of what is good—and that witness is worth our effort. Invite a friend, or speak up the church, in the coming weeks as a new season gets underway!

- Rev. Ken Clarke

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Tuesday afternoon *Bible Study* group continues to meet at the Barn at 4:15 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**

Tues., September 17<sup>th</sup> (4:30-7 PM) "Turning Back to G-d"  
(Teshuva)

October 13<sup>th</sup> "The Fourth Commandment"  
(The Sabbath Day)

November 10<sup>th</sup> "The Old Testament"  
(The Hebrew Bible - The Torah)

December 8<sup>th</sup> "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

“BE AN OPENER OF DOORS...”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sharing our historic building, telling the story of the church and highlighting the importance of those buried in the cemetery is a gift we give to all who walk through the door.

Based on information gathered from the “Daily Sheets” our docents fill out we can report that visitor numbers are up compared to this time last year as are donations and sales. We appreciate the effort of our docents in keeping accurate records, knowing full well it can be difficult at times when things get busy!

And speaking of busy... our busy fall foliage season is nearly upon us and we need help, especially on the weekends! If you are interested in joining the Open Church team we would like to hear from you. Contact Betsy Ehrenfreund or the church office.

## CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals resume on Sunday morning, September 8. Our rehearsals start at 9:45 a.m. in the choir loft. If you are interested in singing with us, please come to the rehearsal and we will find a place for you!

## WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP

The Women’s Book Group’s organizational meeting to select the 2019/2020 book list will take place on September 19, 6:30 PM in the church Parlor. If you would like to join the Women’s Book Group or would like more info, speak with Wendy Schmitt.

## FREE SUNDAY SUPPER

Our church hosts the Free Sunday Supper at Second Congo Church on September 8. Thank you to Bill Hartz, Dave Pilachowski and Larry & Pat Ross for agreeing to host and to those who have signed up to provide food for the dinner.

## THANK YOU

Marsha and Dave are truly touched and humbled by the outpouring of love, prayers and ongoing support from our church after our sudden health challenges this summer. The phone calls, cards, visits and food deliveries were appreciated beyond words. Thank you! We are so blessed to be part of such a precious church family. God’s blessing to all of you.

## LECTURE SERIES AT OLD FIRST

The Old First Church Summer lecture series concludes with a final program on Wed., Sept. 18, at 1 PM “*Folklore, Fact or Fiction*” presented by Robert Tegart, will explore legends, stories and myths regarding the early history of Bennington. Using accounts found in various local histories, some legends will be analyzed to determine if they are indeed fact, fiction or myth. Did Samuel Robinson really get lost and stumble upon Bennington? Was there a horse race by the original settlers to claim land? There is no charge to attend and the lectures are open to all. It will be free and open to the public.

## 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.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

**Choir rehearsal** resumes on Sunday mornings, 9:45 AM starting on Sept. 8

**Deacons** will meet next on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 4PM at the Barn.

**Trustees** will meet next on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 5:30 PM at the Barn.

The **Council** will meet next on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 5 PM at the Barn.

The **Women’s Book Group** meets on the Third Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM at various participant’s homes. Organizational meeting will be held on Sept. 19, 6:30 PM in the church Parlor.

The next Church luncheon (**Harvest Meal**) will be held on Oct. 20 following worship


**Stewardship Sunday** tentatively scheduled on Nov. 10

**Hanging of the Greens Day** is scheduled for Dec. 8

The **Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols** is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15, 7 PM

**Christmas Eve Service** is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5 PM

# September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 PM: Paul & Stacy Thompson family Barn use 10 AM – 3 PM <b>Communion Sunday</b> 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	2 AM: Sue & Marsha PM: Ann  Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7:30 PM, Barn  <b>Labor Day</b>	3 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob   Old Bennington Trustee mtg. 7 PM, Barn	4 AM: Betsy PM: Don M & Roberta	5 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt  <b>Mommy &amp; Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn</b>	6 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & Don	7 AM: Muriel PM: Don M. & Patrice   Myers family Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM
8 PM: Paul & Stacy  Blakey family Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	9 AM: Sue & Marsha PM: Ann	10 AM: Don S PM: Jim & Bob  <b>Deacon's Meeting 4 PM at the Barn</b>  <b>Trustee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Barn</b>	11 AM: Betsy & ____ PM: Patrice, Don M. & Roberta	12 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt  <b>Mommy &amp; Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn</b>	13 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & ____	14 AM: Muriel PM: _____
15 PM: Paul & Stacy  Springer family Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	16 AM: Sue & Marsha PM: Ann  AAUW Meeting 4-7PM, Barn	17 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob  <b>Jewish Roots of Christianity class 4:30 – 7PM, Barn</b>	18 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Bob & Roberta  <b>Lecture Series at the Church 1 PM presentation by Robert Tegart</b>	19 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt  <b>Women's Book Group, 6:30 PM, Parlor</b>  <b>Mommy &amp; Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn</b>	20 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & ____	21 AM: Muriel PM: _____  Dalton family Barn use
22 PM: Paul & Stacy  Mason family Barn use, evening  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	23 AM: Sue & Marsha PM: Ann	24 AM: Lou & Marie PM: Jim & Bob  <b>Bible Study, 4 PM at the Barn</b>  <b>Council Meeting 5 PM, Barn</b>	25 AM: Betsy & Kathy PM: Jane & Roberta	26 AM: Ann B & Patrice PM: Marietta & Walt  <b>Mommy &amp; Me Yoga 6-7 PM @ the Barn</b>	27 AM: Claudia & Jeannette PM: Mary & ____  Sanders family Barn use 5-9 PM	28 AM: Muriel PM: Ann H.  Myers family Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM
29 PM: Paul & Stacy  Allard family Barn use 11 AM – 4 PM  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	30 AM: Sue & ____ PM: Vicky & Betsy					

## DEACONS ON CALL:

Marie Guariniello & Marietta Hibbard

## USHERS:

9/1: Marie Guariniello & Marietta Hibbard  
9/8: Jeannette Lesser & Don Miller  
9/15: Stacy Carreau & Paul Goodrich  
9/22: Don & Lynda Swanda  
9/29: Larry & Pat Ross

## READERS:

9/1: David Varker  
9/8: Reg Jones  
9/15: Dave Pilachowski  
9/22: Marie Guariniello  
9/29: Anastasia Gauthier

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

9/1: Sandy Bechtel, Pat Guerrero & Pat Ross  
9/8: Anastasia Gauthier & Vicky Printz  
(set up by Pat Ross)  
9/15: Bill Hartz & Sue Katz  
9/22: Marsha Pilachowski & Lynda Swanda  
9/29:

## FLOWERS:

9/1: John Meyer IMO Isobel Meyer  
9/8: Betsy Ehrenfreund  
9/15: John Meyer IMO Isobel Meyer  
9/22: Anastasia Gauthier IMO Art Roberts  
9/29: