



2015

*Spire*

*Barre Congregational Church, UCC*

*Welcoming & Serving the Quabbin Area*

*Phone—978-355-4041*

*Email—barrechurch@gmail.com*

*website—www.barrechurch.com*

### **Pastor's Pondering~ April 2015**

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is Risen!"*

*(Luke 24:5)*

I left the rescheduled Annual Meeting on March 4 with mixed feelings. Snowed out on January 26, weighed down with what felt like endless winter, on March 4<sup>th</sup> we were three weeks into Lent, a time traditionally dedicated to inner reflection, penitence, and searching for transformation through deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. For many people, Lent is the spiritual low point of the year and Easter, the ultimate high point. Everything in between ebbs and flows sometimes like a roller coaster ride, or like wandering between dessert and oasis. So I sat for a long time the next morning thinking about what I'd heard the night before: enthusiastic observations about new growth, sincere concerns about our finances, frustration over having to contemplate reducing the Pastor's hours and compensation, questions about our restricted and unrestricted funds.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, anticipating Easter joy, I wondered, "Where is the life of our church centered – in deep pockets and bank accounts? In refurbished rooms? In activities and events? In mission projects and giving? In committee meetings and ad hoc groups? In worship, music, prayer, and Bible study? In Jesus Christ?"

I am a list maker so I began to write, line after line, everything that goes on in our church and in town because of our church. All of these things were covered in our narrative spiritual budget. When I paused, though, the angel's words from Luke came into my head as if from the tomb on that first Easter morning. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Christ is not here... Not in the disembodied items on your list. Ask yourself what's missing from that list, and start again."

Ah, an Easter message. *Start again*. Isn't that what life is about on any given day? We get up each morning with the possibility of beginning anew. Routines notwithstanding, each day offers something different from the day before. We can choose to be resurrected, or walk away from the tomb unmoved.

What was missing from my list? People! Names of the real people who make up our beloved community!

I had all sorts of activities, but there was no life in them staring back at me from the paper. It's the people who bring to life our worship, committee meetings and activities. It's the members of our congregation with all their varied interests, talents, and favorite projects. It's the people who argue and disagree and then step back to reflect on what the other has said. It's the people who forgive each other and reach out in understanding that none of us is perfect; it's the people who greet each other Sunday morning or can't wait to share news when gathering in the kitchen; it's people who hold each other's babies or help an older member get safely down stairs.

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When we are like the women on Easter morning, trudging to the tomb to perform their mournful duty, more focused on the task than on the goal, we are ready to embalm when life remains! I once heard a preacher say that the disciples seemed almost disappointed that the tomb was empty. It wasn't what they expected;

it did not conform to the plans they had undoubtedly made behind closed doors in the hours after Jesus' crucifixion. The world tells us that death means "over and done." So the disciples were confused and not sure how to proceed when they heard that Jesus was alive. Suddenly, Jesus was there among them. The women had not brought an idle tale born of their emotional wishful thinking!

Jesus was – and IS – alive and that was missing from my list and from our deliberations. Recognition of Jesus in our midst, God with us, encouraging us to look for life instead of resignedly accepting death.

The phone rang and a member shared some ideas about fundraising. The phone rang again; more reflection about the meeting and how we need to pray for one another, to ask the Holy Spirit to come into our beloved church home and into the homes of all our members and friends with a message of hope rather than defeat.

It's true, some will say, "That's just a lot of religious idealism. It won't pay the bills." Others will say, "What's the point of hanging onto money for a rainy day when it's pouring now?"

And still others will say, "Money is a tool for mission and ministry. Use it for the good of others not just for ourselves."

So I ask you as we enter this Easter season, what will new life in our church look like to you? Have you already caught glimpses of it? Will you be like Mary who ran excitedly back to tell the disciples that she had seen Jesus alive and on his way to them? Will you help spread the good news about our church?

What an awful shock Jesus would have had if he arrived where he expected disciples and found an empty room, deserted by disciples who chose to look for death when they could have seen life if only they had waited just a bit longer remembering that

*those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.  
(Isaiah 40:27-31)*

On March 21st, Arthur and I attended MACUCC Super Saturday in Ludlow. During the morning worship with 500 other people, I had an epiphany (yes, that's the season before Lent – it changes us from the outside in, while Lent seeks to change us from the inside out – all works together so that we can celebrate the joy of Easter!) The epiphany came as the worship leader asked us to cup our hands and imagine them filled to the brim, to the point that the contents were about to spill out; so full that if our hands were bumped, whatever we held would spill over the edges. The speaker suggested that at that moment we could choose whether whatever filled our hands could be spilled out from abundance, goodness and generosity to be shared, or that the fullness was just too much accumulated mental or material stuff that we need to release. Either way, he said, the emptying is what's important because that makes more room for God's amazing giving to come into our empty places.

That angel voice whispered to me again, "That's the message of the empty tomb: God has an amazing way of giving us all that we need, when we need it, without our having to force our will on others; without having to rely on worldly solutions when something much more satisfying awaits."

So what was missing from Annual Meeting? A process involving people willing to share hopes and dreams for our church and the means to support our ministries. The solution we seek for our future doesn't lie in "either/or," but in seeing life where there seems to be death. A process may now emerge from the informational meetings scheduled by the Church Committee. I encourage you to attend at least one of them trusting that, just as Jesus showed up at the right moment and turned Mary's despair into rejoicing, he's likely to do that for us if we let him.

As Easter dawns, I urge members and friends to trust that our church is about to experience Resurrection because every day, we are finding new ways to serve in the name of our Risen Savior!

With love,



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## Services and Events for

***Prepare to Celebrate  
Christ's Resurrection***



**7 PM Maundy Thursday, April 2** in the sanctuary, a service of Tenebrae as we hear the Passion Story and inspiring music. The Lord's Supper commemorating Christ's Last Supper will be served. All are welcome.

**6:30 PM Good Friday, April 3** there will be a silent supper served in Fellowship Hall followed by time for people to reflect on the Stations of the Cross. A love offering will be taken to defray costs of the meal. Regardless of denominational affiliation or religious background, everyone is welcome. Please make reservations by leaving a message at either 978-355-4041 or at 978-257-8362.

**6:30 AM Easter Sunday Sunrise Service**, April 5 at Stevens Farm, 749 Old Coldbrook Road. Start your Easter rejoicing with voices raised in song and praise, then join us for coffee, baked goods, hospitality as only Irene and Richard can offer! Everyone is welcome!

**9:30 AM Easter worship service** in the sanctuary of Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Flowers, choral and instrumental music, and the joyous sharing of Communion when we gather around Christ's table for our celebration of reconciliation, recommitment and love where all are welcome. Time With the Children includes an Easter egg hunt and the story of The Bird's Gift. The sermon is entitled "Can You Hear Me Now?"



### **Women's Fellowship 2nd Annual Tea & Entertainment - Maplewinds Orchestra**

Saturday, April 11, 2025

**noon**

Tickets for the Tea

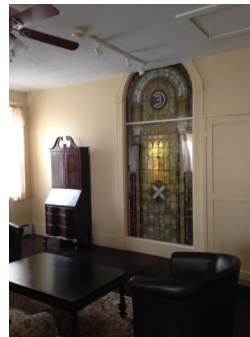
\$10.00 Adults \$5.00 for children under 12

For reservations please call

Lisa Holloway 978-355-0140

Quilt Raffle "You've Got Mail"

Six tickets for \$5.00



### **Come Celebrate With Us Our Newly Renovated Upper Room!!**

Members & Friends of  
Barre Congregational Church  
are invited to attend  
The dedication of the newly  
renovated Upper Room (the  
former Ladies Parlor)

**Sunday, April 26, 2015 9:30 am.**

Join us for the worship service followed by a tour  
of the room.

As you view the completed room, you will be able  
to thank the church committee, especially Shirley  
Lewis who coordinated the project and Adam  
Knipe who did much of the work along with  
Steve Morrall and the Worcester County Sheriff  
Dept.

Sincerely, The Church Committee  
Jack Lathrop, Chair, Bob Swindell, Shirley Lewis  
Steve Morrall Adam Knipe, Sarah Dyer

## Treasurers Report

## Collector's Monthly Report

## March

Loose Offering	642.34
Missions	479.00
Current pledges	8,670.00
NA Group	20.00
Initial Offering	20.00
Spire Postage	100.00
Water Bottle Music Fund	53.71
PIF AA	100.00
Heard it from the Grapevine	60..00
<u>Sue Fullam Memorial Fund</u>	<u>175.00</u>
Total for March	\$10,380.15

# Emergency Church Committee Informational Meetings On the Budget Crisis

The Church Committee will hold three informational meetings:

**Sunday April 12 at 11:00 am**

**Wednesday April 15 at 6:30 pm**

**Friday April 17 at 2:00 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Upper Room  
(the former Ladies Parlor)

Please try to attend one of these sessions!

Thank you

## Your Church Committee

## Church Supper

## Turkey Dinner With all the Fixings

Saturday, April 25, 2015

5:30 pm

\$10.00 Adults    \$5.00 for children under 12

For reservations call Lisa Holloway  
978-355-0140

Expenses: 1/1/15-3/31/15	
Payroll	25,258.00
Office Supplies	1,412.00
Telephone & Internet	817.00
Equipment Maintenance	732.00
Cleaning Supplies	205.00
Misc	75.00
Flowers	299.00
Water & Sewer	258.00
Heat & Gas	3,090.00
Electricity	1,261.00
Insurance	3,801.00
Snow Removal	1,535.00
Piano / Organ	260.00
Alarm	480.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 39,483.00</b>

## Income

Loose	1,264.00
Pledges	19,250.00
Other	1,378.00
Loan payments	2,219.00
Investment Interest	4,796.00

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,807.00</b>
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**Transferred from savings for ordinary ex-**  
**penses:**

**\$10,000**

**(Balance in checking account on 1/1/15) :**

**\$2,236.41**

**Operating Deficit: \$10,676**

## Barre Food Pantry News

Our next distribution is **Wednesday, April 8th from 10:00 am—noon** with preparation the day and evening before on Tuesday the 7th.

For our upcoming March distribution, we have need of additional:

Peanut Butter	Macaroni & cheese
Canned green beans	baked beans
Canned pasta	Beef stew

### Egg Cartons, Egg Cartons, Egg Cartons

Volunteers are welcome!!! If you would like to volunteer please call Sonja, 978-355-6921 or Chuck 978-355-6463.

## Church Camp Opportunities

It's time to start planning for summer activities: Some summer camps you may want to look into;

- ♦ Covent Hills Christian Camp, Cabot VT
- ♦ Horton Center, Northern White Mtns. Of NH
- ♦ Silver Lake, Sharon CT
- ♦ Pilgrim Lodge, West Gardiner, ME
- ♦ Star Island, Portsmouth, NH
- ♦ Irons Homestead Summer Camp, Glocester, RI

More information about the camps is on the bulletin board outside the office

## An Update about Fred Anderson

Fred Anderson was our minister while Pastor Phillip took his Sabbatical. In 2007, Fred was well loved by all of us, and it is sad to say that Fred is courageously battling cancer.

He would like to receive notes and cards from us.

Fred's address is:

7 Crescent Ave. #313 Fiskdale MA 01518

If you would like to read the article that appeared in the UCC Central Connection it is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

## Community Friendship Supper

Thursday, April 16, 2015

5:30 pm

Please let me know if you can set up, cook, serve, clean up, shop or donate food items. It is important to know, well in advance, to avoid over shopping or under staffing. If you would like more information please call Janice Handrahan—1-508-882-3159.

The Fundraising Committee is sponsoring a

## *A Spring Fling Dance*

Saturday, May 2, 2015

From 7:00 p.m - 10:00 pm

Hartman's Herb Farm

Old Dana Rd, Barre, MA

Disc Jockey Jerry B will play music from the 50's, 60's & 70's

Refreshments will be served

A Donation of \$15.00 per person to the

Barre Congregational Church

For more info call—George & Sylvia at 978-355-2805



# April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts <b>7:00 Church Committee</b>	<b>2</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours <b>7:00 Service of Tenebrae</b> 7:00 AA	<b>3</b> <b>6:30 Silent Supper</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 AA
<b>5</b> <b>6:30 Sunrise Service—Steven's Farm</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 8:45 Bell Choir warm-up <b>9:30 Easter Service</b>	<b>6</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6:00 Bell Choir 6 Food Pantry set-up 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous <b>7:00 CE Committee</b>	<b>8</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>10-12 Food Pantry</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 6:30 Q-Drug Community Meeting—Senior Center 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 Barre Women's Club 7:00 AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Noon Women's Fellowship &amp; Entertainment</b> 7:00 AA
<b>12</b> 9:30 Service/ Sunday School/Daily-Lefebvre Baptism <b>11:00 Informational Meeting</b> 11 Confirmation	<b>13</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6:00 Bell Choir 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous	<b>15</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts  <b>6:30 Informational Meeting</b>	<b>16</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours <b>5:30 Community Friendship Supper</b> 7:00 AA	<b>17</b> <b>2:30 Informational Meeting</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 AA
<b>19</b> 8:30 choir warm-up 9:30 Service / Sunday school 11:00 Confirmation	<b>20</b> <b>Patriot's Day</b>	<b>21</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>6:30 Fundraising Meeting</b> 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous  <div style="text-align: center;">—School Vacation Week—</div>	<b>22</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours	<b>23</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>5:30 Church Supper</b> 7 AA
<b>26</b> 9:30 Service/ Sunday School <b>11:00 Dedication of Upper Room</b> 11 Confirmation	<b>27</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts <b>6:30 Diaconate</b>	<b>28</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous	<b>29</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA		

# Daily Lectionary Scripture References

## April 2015 (Year B)

**Wed., Apr. 1**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

**Thurs., Apr. 2**

*Maundy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Fri., Apr. 3**

*Good Friday*  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16  
John 18:1—19:42

**Sat., Apr. 4**

*Holy Saturday*  
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

**Sun., Apr. 5**

**Easter**  
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

**Mon., Apr. 6**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Genesis 1:1-19  
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

**Tues., Apr. 7**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Genesis 1:20—2:4a  
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

**Wed., Apr. 8**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Song of Solomon 3:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

**Thurs., Apr. 9**

Psalm 133  
Daniel 1:1-21  
Acts 2:42-47

**Fri., Apr. 10**

Psalm 133  
Daniel 2:1-23  
Acts 4:23-31

**Sat., Apr. 11**

Psalm 133  
Daniel 2:24-49  
John 12:44-50

**Sun., Apr. 12**

*Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1—2:2  
John 20:19-31

**Mon., Apr. 13**

Psalm 135  
Daniel 3:1-30  
1 John 2:3-11

**Tues., Apr. 14**

Psalm 135  
Daniel 6:1-28  
1 John 2:12-17

**Wed., Apr. 15**

Psalm 135  
Isaiah 26:1-15  
Mark 12:18-27

**Thurs., Apr. 16**

Psalm 4  
Daniel 9:1-19  
1 John 2:18-25

**Fri., Apr. 17**

Psalm 4  
Daniel 10:2-19  
1 John 2:26-28

**Sat., Apr. 18**

Psalm 4  
Acts 3:1-10  
Luke 22:24-30

**Sun., Apr. 19**

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

**Mon., Apr. 20**

Psalm 150  
Jeremiah 30:1-11a  
1 John 3:10-16

**Tues., Apr. 21**

Psalm 150  
Hosea 5:15—6:6  
2 John 1-6

**Wed., Apr. 22**

Psalm 150  
Proverbs 9:1-6  
Mark 16:9-18

**Thurs., Apr. 23**

Psalm 23  
Genesis 30:25-43  
Acts 3:17-26

**Fri., Apr. 24**

Psalm 23  
Genesis 46:28—47:6  
Acts 4:1-4

**Sat., Apr. 25**

Psalm 23  
Genesis 48:8-19  
Mark 6:30-34

**Sun., Apr. 26**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

**Mon., Apr. 27**

Psalm 95  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Peter 5:1-5

**Tues., Apr. 28**

Psalm 95  
1 Chronicles 11:1-9  
Revelation 7:13-17

**Wed., Apr. 29**

Psalm 95  
Micah 7:8-20  
Mark 14:26-31

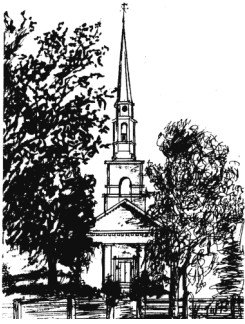
**Thurs., Apr. 30**

Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 8:1-7  
Acts 8:1b-8



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Barre Congregational Church

P.O. Box 936

Barre, MA 01005

*The world needs the distinct values, vision  
and voice of the United Church of Christ–  
Continuing Testament.*

*Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.*