

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor – Margaret Keyser

Organist – Deborah Page

Choir Director – Karla Peterson & Scott Bryant

Sexton – Clark Family

Office Manager – Wendy Isgro

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2020

A Message from Pastor Margaret....

Worshipping Together During a Pandemic

Grace and peace to you, members of Barre Congregational Church! What an extraordinary experience it has been the last three-plus months to have worship services from a distance and at our homes, something we never thought would happen! We started on March 15, and I remember writing to you in my sermon that morning, asking you the question the Israelites asked Moses in the wilderness, “Is God among us?” They were thirsty and there was no water. It was difficult for Moses because there was much complaining and quarreling going on, and the people of Israel were challenging him and testing God, to the point where Moses cried out to God and asked, “What shall I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!” They had been traveling through the desert for some time and were suffering the severity of the desert conditions. Their faith had been tested and their patience diminished to nothing. They were hungry and thirsty, and they cried for the pots of Egypt. Then we see how God showed up and miraculously provided water out of the rock at Horeb! Yahweh showed up!

From that moment in March onwards, it felt like a whirlwind for me as pastor, thinking, how are we going to keep our congregation together during a pandemic where we must stay separate from each other? How are going to do things, Lord, I asked like Moses asked God in the wilderness. Are You among us, Lord? Then the music came...through the sound of “This Little Light of Mine”, sung by the Morin family, followed by the beautiful rendition, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is” by our organist, Deb Page, and more! Those who agreed to sing for us brought so much hope and light into that dark moment. It also opened up a whole new way of thinking about worshipping with one another via the internet. What a team effort it has been. In discussions with the deacons, our organist, and several other musicians and songwriters and family members in our congregation near and far, we were blessed with the most amazing music during this time. Everyone was willing to video tape themselves and provide us with videos to include in our worship services. Our deacons recorded their own readings on a weekly basis, and we gradually were able to put together full worship services with the help of my husband Jim Ault, who did the editing, so it would feel as if we were worshipping together. I made the shift from preaching from the pulpit, to preaching into my phone! What an experience! We have even been able to have communion together! You received these YouTube services via email, and they were posted on our website as well as our Facebook page. I thank Wendy Isgro, our secretary, Amy Trevett, who manages our website, and Janice Handrahan, who manages our Facebook page for sending out and posting our services. They worked diligently every week to get things done. Meanwhile the Barre Gazette requested that my written sermons be published in the newspaper, and that was an honor and a blessing for us.

While this has been an incredibly challenging and an enormous task at times to get everything done, and everyone learning how to do things virtually, I am so grateful for your patience as a congregation. You may be missing each other, as I do, but I hope you have felt blessed with what we were able to provide, and that you didn’t feel like you wanted to complain (smile), and even if you do feel like you want to, the deacons and I understand that completely!

Meanwhile a committee had been put together to start looking at what it would take to open the church for worship services. This will require creative thinking and careful considerations to ensure the safety of everyone worshipping, and other groups using our church building. I ask that you all pray with us that we do things right for the good of everyone, and that when the time comes and we feel comfortable and safe worshipping together physically, that we will say, it is good to be together again. But before then, I ask that we all continue to come together in this way for a little longer, while our Committee is doing the ground-work for a safe opening.

I now want to thank God for helping us throughout this time, and for everyone who contributed to making our services so meaningful, and for sharing our services for others to see and read. These are all our deacons, Wendy Isgro, Deb Page, the Morin and Brown families, Kayley Clark all the way from Sweden, Julia Tuttle, Laura Guilbault, Karla Peterson, Jim Ault, Amy Trevett and the Barre Gazette. May God bless you all!

May we continue to pray to God for protection from this virus, and may you enjoy a beautiful and safe summer with your love ones. May we declare that God is with us, even though we are going through a dark valley still. Be safe and God bless you!

Pastor Margaret Keyser

**Those in the Nursing Homes, Asst. Living, & Shut-ins
They would love to receive a visit, a note or a call.....**

- Carol Brandl, P.O. Box 137, Barre MA 01005
- Bess Difley, P.O. Box 114, Barre, MA 01005
- Abby Hale, P.O. Box 176, Barre, MA 01005
- Shirley Lewis, 42 Dana Rd., Barre, MA 01005

Please let us know if there is anyone you know of that needs a visit, a call or our prayers! Please call Pastor Margaret, 1-860-670-0706, Kevin Fogarty, 978-928-5732 Or the church office, 978-355-4041 or email, barrechurch@gmail.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Robin Bernard, member of BCC
Neil Churchill, friend of BCC
Lois Cooley, member of BCC
Kate Devyatkin, Eileen Bohigian's sister
Debbie Robichaud, friend of BCC
Those people who have been affect by Covid 19
The family of Lester Boyer
The family of Audrey Stevens

OUR PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Our Police, Fire & Emergency Personnel
- The Barre Food Pantry
- The Drug Response Coalition
- AA Groups
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Students, parents and caregivers of the Quabbin School District

MILITARY SERVICE

Those Friends and Members who serve our Country.

JULY

4 Wendy Chabot
Karl Miller
8 Robin Bernard
9 Patrick Clark
10 Wilhelmina Piper
15 Jennifer Peddle
22 Kevin Fogarty
27 Abigail Hale
29 Bessie Difley
Kathy Fritscher
30 Joe Griczika
Ward Holloway III

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Todd & Carrisa Wozniak
Jason & Toni Brown
George & Margaret Marshall
20 Mike & Jean Walsh
22 Paul & Darlene Murphy
26 Jack & Kate Lathrop

"God has created each of us, calls us by a special name, and says to us: you are precious in my eyes."

Inside this Spire	
Message	Page 1
Prayer Concerns/ Birthdays	Page 2
Zoom meeting minutes/ Community Supper/ Pinecones	Page 3
Financial	Page 4
Lectionary	Page 5

AUGUST SPIRE

The August Spire will be sent out the week of July 26th. If you have anything you would like to appear in the August issue please email it to barrechurch@gmail.com

Thank you, Wendy

Church Meeting – June 21, 2020 11:00 am

Below is a summary of the Zoom Church Meeting on June 12, 2020. The meeting lasted about an hour. Eleven people were present.

Pastor Margaret opened the meeting with prayer.

Bonni Holmes reported that our financial position is stable. Giving has continued using bill pay through the givers bank, Pay Pal on our web site, or mailing checks. We have obtained a PPP loan for our payroll for 2 ½ months. According to government legislation, this loan should be forgiven.

Church Committee report included:

Discussion of painting the west side of the church

Patching a leak in the steeple – cost within appropriated \$5,000 approved by the committee

Replacement of fire alarms and batteries by Houston Alarm Company

Allowing Food Pantry to do drive-by distribution from the church

Diaconate report included:

Collaboration to produce the video services every week for the church. They would like to thank Pastor Margaret and her husband Jim for the producing the video, Wendy for doing the bulletin, Deb Page and all others who have contributed music, and the deacons for their participation in the service.

New Business:

A committee was set up to formulate a plan to reopen the church. This committee represents Diaconate, Church Committee, Christian Education, Music Committee, Sexton, Pastor, Secretary, and moderator. We will explore the state's regulations, UCC documents, and plans from other churches to set protocols for the church reopening.

If you have any concerns, questions, or ideas, please contact Sue Musnicki, moderator – smusnicki@hotmail.com It will be passed along to the committee.

Sue Musnicki

Moderator, Barre Congregational Church

COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP SUPPER

The Community Friendship Supper for the month of July has been cancelled. If you need some assistance please let Janice Handrahan know. (frostingjj@aol.com or 978-353-9033)



PINECONES

If you are out and about this summer the Women's Fellowship Wreath Sale is happening again this year.

WE NEED PINECONES JUST LIKE THE ONES SHOWN IN THE PICTURE. The wreath sale is a major fund raiser for the Women's Fellowship. If you see any please pick them up and deliver them to the church leave them by the back door. We thank you ahead of time for your help!

FINANCIAL PAGE

EXPENSES: 1/1/20– 6/30/20

Payroll	37,234.00
Office Supplies	1,131.00
Telephone & Internet	1,455.00
Postage	176.00
General Maintenance	3,373.00
Diaconate	256.00
Music	0.00
Misc	0.00
Trash Pickup	0.00
Sewer	300.00
Water	358.00
Heat & Gas	5,104.00
Electricity	1,911.11
Insurance	3,787.00
Snow Removal	1,400.00
Piano / Organ	2,905.00
Alarm	2,500.00
TOTAL	\$61,890.00

INCOME	
Loose	4,044.00
Pledges – current	28,254.00
Pledges – future	0.00
Other	3,197.00
Investment Income	85,637.00
Total	\$121,132.00

Retained Earnings: \$59,242.00

Average Weekly Giving: \$1,242.00

Weekly Giving Needed to meet budget \$1,982

Remaining Balance of roof fund loan: \$2,697

COLLECTORS REPORT

April 2020

Current	3,580.00
Missions	85.00
Loose Offering	480.00
UBS	9,195.59
Donation	200.00
Memorial Fund Elly Rival	100.00
Memorial Fund for Five people	50.00
Lathrop	112.45
Total	\$13,803.04



The Church Committee
would like you to know
PayPal is now on the
website

(www.Barrechurch.com), an easy way to
make your donation or offering to the
church. Another option is that it can be
mailed to :

Margaret Marshall
169 Sunrise Ave

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee would
like to thank you for being good
Stewards of the Lord.

Continue those acts of kindness as
well as praying for all as we move
through this pandemic.



Fourth of July

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -July 2020 (Year A)

Wed. July 1

Psalm 47
Isaiah 51:1-3
Matthew 11:20-24

Thurs., July 2

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 25:19-27
Romans 7:1-6

Fri., July 3

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 27:1-17
Romans 7:7-20

Sat., July 4

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 27:18-29
Luke 10:21-24

Sun., July 5

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of
Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Mon., July 6

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 27:30-46
Romans 1:18-25

Tues., July 7

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 29:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Wed., July 8

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 29:31-35
John 13:1-17

Thurs., July 9

Psalm 119:105-112
Exodus 3:1-6
Romans 2:12-16

Fri., July 10

Psalm 119:105-112
Deuteronomy 32:1-10
Romans 15:14-21

Sat., July 11

Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 2:1-4
John 12:44-50

Sun., July 12

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Mon., July 13

Psalm 142
Micah 1:1-5
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tues., July 14

Psalm 142
Jeremiah 49:7-11
Ephesians 4:17—5:2

Wed., July 15

Psalm 142
Obadiah 15-21
Matthew 13:10-17

Thurs., July 16

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Isaiah 44:1-5
Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., July 17

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Ezekiel 39:21-29
Hebrews 6:13-20

Sat., July 18

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Exodus 14:9-25
Matthew 7:15-20

Sun., July 19

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Mon., July 20

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 32:3-21
Revelation 14:12-20

Tues., July 21

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 33:1-17
Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wed., July 22

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 35:16-29
Matthew 12:15-21

Thurs., July 23

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:1-8
1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Fri., July 24

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:9-14
Acts 7:44-53

Sat., July 25

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:31—30:24
Matthew 12:38-42

Sun., July 26

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Mon., July 27

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:25-36
James 3:13-18

Tues., July 28

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:37-43
Ephesians 6:10-18

Wed., July 29

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 46:2—47:12
Mark 4:30-34

Thurs., July 30

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 14:1-2
Philippians 4:10-15

Fri., July 31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 41:8-10

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:10 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 11:1-9 (NIV).



Ask

Seek

Knock

P	R	A	Y	Y	B	S	L	E	F	X	E	B	P	H
U	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	L	T	S	P	D	Q	A
A	Y	Z	A	U	B	Q	Q	S	E	E	E	R	X	L
U	Q	B	S	B	U	R	W	F	Z	A	A	E	G	L
O	R	R	K	P	U	J	I	U	R	Z	D	C	K	O
O	N	E	O	L	F	N	P	I	P	I	A	Q	H	W
T	A	A	P	X	A	A	F	V	I	X	E	M	M	E
E	M	D	E	D	M	F	T	W	T	F	S	N	U	D
M	E	C	N	H	R	D	O	H	N	L	F	B	D	W
P	P	K	K	R	N	E	G	R	E	S	M	Y	Y	U
A	V	N	I	I	Q	I	C	C	G	R	T	C	D	Y
T	N	O	F	U	N	J	C	E	S	I	N	S	A	O
I	J	C	W	D	K	S	D	G	I	J	V	Q	I	A
O	Q	K	I	F	B	E	K	P	I	V	J	E	L	A
N	M	M	W	N	M	J	J	P	V	W	E	M	Y	P

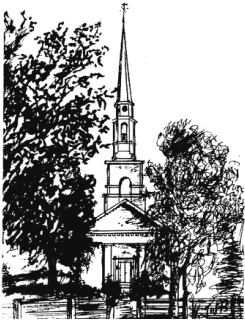
FIND
SEEK
MIDNIGHT
SINS

PRAY
FATHER
DAILY
KINGDOM

OPEN
NAME
TEACH
HALLOWED

TEMPATION
KNOCK
LEAD
FORGIVE

FRIEND
RECEIVE
BREAD
ASK



Barre Congregational Church

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

Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.