

# Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor – Margaret Keyser

Organist – Deborah Page

Choir Director – Karla Peterson & Scott Bryant

Sexton – Clark Family

Office Manager – Wendy Isgro

Phone—978-355-4041



## 2018

### *A Message from Pastor Margaret.....*

Grace and peace to you!

This past weekend I worked with a congregation involved in a serious conflict. This was my second meeting with them. At the end of the session, everyone in the room felt overcome by the incredible feeling of peace. I left there feeling inspired, hopeful and encouraged that we as human beings can allow our hearts to be softened, for mercy to be born and give forgiveness and reconciliation a chance.

In John Chapter 17, Jesus prayed for His disciples that they would be one, as He and God are One. He then went on to pray for all believers, for you and me, that the world would see this perfect union. Jesus prayed this prayer, because He knew that He would be gone soon, and that His disciples would need inner strength to stay strong, facing the struggles ahead.

It was through prayer that Jesus was able to perform miracles, and show love, mercy and the power of forgiveness to those around Him, even those who would abandon and crucify Him. Jesus' close union with God enabled Him to endure the pain and suffering, but also experience the hope of the resurrection. The earthly Jesus was a Man of peace, who found His peace in relationship and union with God. That is why He desired for His disciples and all believers to have that same union He had with God, a union that would withstand the storms of life.

Toward the end of the session with the congregation, I was about to suggest we sing a hymn, when one member exclaimed, "Can we sing a hymn?". My heart jumped, and I smiled, as I walked toward her and hugged her. Everyone went quiet for a moment, then we sang our hearts out! We all felt the Spirit of God at work, as well as a feeling of oneness.

As a result of the conflict, some members had left the church in 2017. A couple who stopped coming to church since November, was present, and I witnessed how their fellow members encouraged them, letting them and others who were hesitant to return, know how their love for one another did not end, because of the conflict. Apologies were offered, forgiveness was shared, and at the end of the session, after many tears were shed, the couple announced their return to the church.

I saw the love of God at work in that room. I saw humility, and the ability of human hearts to be softened. I saw the oneness among people of faith, who have been praying for healing and oneness to be returned.

Members of Barre Congregational Church...I have experienced that same feeling of peace, serving you during the last number of months. May God continue to help us, to be a congregation one with God and one another, and may the peace of God stay with us always.

Blessings to all of you,

*Pastor Margaret*



## *Holy Week Schedule*

### **Palm Sunday -**

Sunday, March 25, 2018  
9:30 am

Pastor Margaret Keyser, preaching  
Choir & Sunday School Choir  
Palms will be given out.

### **Maundy Thursday—Service of Tenebrae**

Thursday, March 29, 2018  
7:00 pm

Choir will sing and Communion will be served

### **Easter Sunday—** Sunday, April 1, 2018

9:30 am

Pastor Margaret Keyser Preaching  
He is Risen!!!

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### **COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP SUPPER** **Shepherd's Pie and Mac n' Cheese**

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend and or family members.  
Thursday, March 15, 2018  
5:30 pm

Come enjoy the friendships and fellowship!

A free will offering may be given.  
The offering is used by the  
Mission's Committee for those in need in  
our church and community.

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### **FLOWER COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP!**

Easter Sunday is April 1st.

The Flower Committee would once again this year like to decorate our beautiful sanctuary with spring flowers.

Flowers can be purchased through the Flower Committee:

Single Lilies—\$11.00    Triple Lilies—\$33.00  
10" Tulips—\$17.00  
8" daffodils—\$14.00    10" Daffodils—\$17.00

If you would like to purchase flowers please see  
Ann Clark, Sue Musnicki or Beth Richard  
Or Call the church office—978-355-4041

### **Women's Fellowship** **A Luncheon Opportunity** **Soup and Salad Luncheon**

Monday, March 5, 2018

Noon

\$5.00 Donation

Women's Fellowship invites you to a Soup and Salad Luncheon.

After lunch Margaret Marshall will open the Barre Historical Society so we can visit.

There will be a short business meeting before the visit.

### **Women's Fellowship Spring Tea & Luncheon**

Entertainment by the  
Maplewinds Orchestra

Saturday, April 7, 2018  
Noon

Menu: Tea, Small Sandwiches, various deserts



Cost: \$12.00 Adults    \$5.00 for  
children under 12  
(Meals can be made kid friendly by request)

For reservations please call Lisa Holloway—978-355-0140 or the church office 978-355-4041

Come and support the Women's Fellowship, proceeds to help projects of the Barre Congregational Church

### **SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITY**

It is that special time of year when we celebrate the glory of Christ's Resurrection.

The choir has an opportunity for you. Come rehearse on March 6th, 13th, and 20th so you can sing on Palm Sunday and come back and rehearse one more time on the 27th and sing on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Then your short term is done. You just may like it enough to come back again and enjoy the Ministry of Music. If you have any questions please see Karla Peterson, Scott Bryant or Deb Page.

### **A Request from the Organist**

I would like to hear the beautiful music you are singing on Sunday mornings. Please hold your hymnals and your bulletins up so you can respond to the Lord in a joyous way.  
Thank you, Deb Page

### **FROM THE DIACONATE**

Pastor Margaret has been trying to coordinate a visit from a missionary who has been in South Africa for 17 years. We hope to have her speak on March 18, 2018.

During Holy Week we will have our Maundy Thursday service. Rev Charles Page will be in the pulpit on March 4, and March 11, Pastor Margaret will be preaching March 18, and March 25.

The deacons are looking for people that are interested in being lay readers on Sunday mornings. Please contact Marsha Bray if you are interested in helping.

If you need help getting to an appointment or would like a visit from a deacon, please call Marsha Bray, 978-355-2304 or the church office, 978-355-4041.

### **FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

A thought for the month from the Stewardship Committee:

*Wisdom( from God), make prudence my dwelling, and I find out knowledge and discretion. Proverbs 8:12*

A word you don't hear very much teaching about is "prudence." In the Scriptures "prudence" or "prudent" means being good stewards of the gifts of God had has given us to use. Those gifts include abilities, time, energy, strength, and health as well as material possessions. They include our bodies as well as out minds and spirits.

God has given each us different gifts and grace according to how He wants us to use them. One person may be gifted t sing and does so in their local area, while another person's singing ability is known in most of the world. The Bible tells us to use our gifts according to the grace given us (Romans 12:6).

*\*Taken from Joyce Meyers "Closer to God Each Day Devotional"*

**Please remember to pay your pledge. It helps our church!!!!**

### **FOOD PANTRY**

A reminder the Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers. You can volunteer on the Tuesday before the Food Pantry, Tuesday, April 13th from 9-11 or evening 6:30 and or Wednesday, April 14th from 9:30—noon, distribution day. If you have any questions please call the church office, 978-355-4041.

### **JUST A FEW REMINDERS**

When you leave the church please make sure all lights are **turned off** and the doors are **locked**.

Please make sure if you bring food into the church, please make sure after your event you take home what you don't use. Don't leave it in the refrigerator.

Please check with Ann Clark or Wendy Isgro if you would like to donate an item to the church.

Thank you for your cooperation!

### **FROM THE CHURCH COMMITTEE**

Our committee is set for 2018, Ann Clark is the new chair and Steve Morrall is the secretary.

The Sump pump has been replaced. We will continue to monitor to make sure we do not have an issue and we have water damage to the new resurface Fellowship hall floor.

We have overspent our oil contract-but we have extended it at a higher cost for an additional five months. A private donation has been made to cover half of the additional cost. So thank you

We are putting together our needs and wants on church property upgrades – The ceiling in the balcony and sanctuary that was damaged before the roof was replaced. This is cosmetic. The ceiling in the downstairs kitchen needs replacement – this is a higher priority.

Repairing the cabinets in the downstairs kitchen. Summer project. Hopefully a group needing community service can help with this project.

The loan balance on the roof is \$7,486.00 if you have pledged over 3 years, don't forget to pay the 2018 installment. We have 2-1/2 years remaining on this loan.

We meet the first Wednesday of each month in the Chapel at 6:30pm. We have an open forum and all are welcome.

## FINANCIAL PAGE

### EXPENSES: 1/1/18 – 2/28/18

Payroll	11,738.00
Office Supplies	340.00
Telephone & Internet	431.00
Postage	78.00
General Maintenance	871.00
Stewardship	0.00
Music	0.00
Misc.	14.00
Trash Pickup	0.00
Sewer	0.00
Water	112.00
Heat & Gas	1,285.00
Electricity	734.00
Insurance	2,883.00
Snow Removal	2,225.00
Piano / Organ	0.00
Alarm	480.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,191.00</b>

<b>INCOME</b>	
Loose	1,320.00
Pledges – current	7,361.00
Other	482.00
Investment Income	2,001.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,164.00</b>

**Retained Deficit: (\$10,027)**

**Average Weekly Giving: \$1,085**

**Weekly Giving Needed to meet budget  
\$1,792**

**Remaining Balance of roof fund loan:  
\$7,391.16**

### COLLECTORS REPORT

Loose	702.03
Current	2,748.00
Missions	90.00
Oil Bill	150.00
UBS	440.67
UCC Dues	80.00
Tuesday NA	20.00
Thursday AA	50.00
Roof	95.00
Rent	45.00
Flower Donation	40.00
Bentley Repair	549.11
Florist Bill	70.00
Discretionary Fund	1200
Lathrop	112.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,204.26</b>

### UCC FELLOWSHIP DUES REMINDER

If you are a member of the Barre Congregational Church and have not paid your Fellowship Dues for this year please send in \$21.00 per member to the church. Please mark on your check Fellowship Dues.

Thank you!

Stewardship Committee

# March 2018

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. – Psalm 51:10*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00AA	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 boy Scouts Ham & Bean Dinner 7:00 AA
<b>4</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/Communion/ Sunday School	<b>5</b> <b>12:00 Women's Fellowship Luncheon &amp; Historical Society Visit</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>7</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 6-7 Daisys 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Barre Women's Club 7:00AA	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 AA
<b>11</b> 9:30 Service/ Sunday School/ Maplewinds Orchestra  <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>	<b>12</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Food Pantry set-up <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>14</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours <b>10-12 Food Pantry</b> 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 6-7 Daisy's 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>5:30 Friendship Community Supper</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 AA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 AA
<b>18</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday school/	<b>19</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA <i>Spring Begins</i>	<b>21</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 6-7 Daisy's 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 AA
<b>25</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 8:45 Sunday School Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday School <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>26</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>27</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>28</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 6-7 Daisy's 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA <b>7:00 Service of Tenebrae</b>  <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<b>30</b>  <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>31</b> 10:00 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby 7:00 AA

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References

### March 2018 (Year B)

**Thurs., Mar. 1**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:1-9a  
1 Peter 2:4-10

**Fri., Mar. 2**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:9b-15  
Acts 7:30-40

**Sat., Mar. 3**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:16-25  
Mark 9:2-8

**Sun., Mar. 4**

*Third Sunday in Lent*  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

**Mon., Mar. 5**

Psalm 84  
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22  
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**Tues., Mar. 6**

Psalm 84  
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19  
Hebrews 9:23-28

**Wed., Mar. 7**

Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16  
Mark 11:15-19

**Thurs., Mar. 8**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Ephesians 1:3-6

**Fri., Mar. 9**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Daniel 12:5-13  
Ephesians 1:7-14

**Sat., Mar. 10**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Numbers 20:22-29  
John 3:1-13

**Sun., Mar. 11**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

**Mon., Mar. 12**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Exodus 15:22-27  
Hebrews 3:1-6

**Tues., Mar. 13**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Numbers 20:1-13  
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

**Wed., Mar. 14**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Isaiah 60:15-22  
John 8:12-20

**Thurs., Mar. 15**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Isaiah 30:15-18  
Hebrews 4:1-13

**Fri., Mar. 16**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Exodus 30:1-10  
Hebrews 4:14-5:4

**Sat., Mar. 17**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Habakkuk 3:2-13  
John 12:1-11

**Sun., Mar. 18**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm  
119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

**Mon., Mar. 19**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Isaiah 43:8-13  
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

**Tues., Mar. 20**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Isaiah 44:1-8  
Acts 2:14-24

**Wed., Mar. 21**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23  
John 12:34-50

**Thurs., Mar. 22**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Deuteronomy 16:1-8  
Philippians 2:1-11

**Fri., Mar. 23**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Jeremiah 33:1-9  
Philippians 2:12-18

**Sat., Mar. 24**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Jeremiah 33:10-16  
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

**Sun., Mar. 25**

*Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday*  
**Palms:** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16  
**Passion:** Isaiah 50:4-9a;  
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;  
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

**Mon., Mar. 26**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

**Tues., Mar. 27**

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

**Wed., Mar. 28**

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

**Thurs., Mar. 29**

*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., Mar. 30**

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

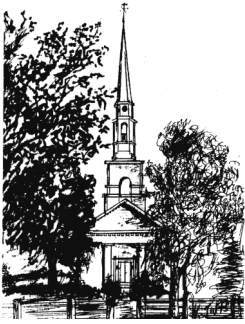
**Sat., Mar. 31**

*Holy Saturday*  
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
Psalm 148  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CONFERENCE**

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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.*