

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

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2017

Walking By Faith

By Pamela Kennedy, Ideals Magazine

For we walk by faith, not by sight. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:7

Seeing is believing. I suspect most people today would agree with this statement. We want people to show us before we put our faith in a person or a product. Flip the channels on any television at any time and you can witness thousands of dollars being spent on this principle. A woman who once weighed three hundred pounds stands in a single pant leg of her old size fifty-two jeans, now a smiling size six. Before and after shots of individuals who are no longer bald, wrinkled, or out of shape flash across the screen. Seeing is believing, and infomercials blare that message incessantly. But I have also been in the audience as a magician sliced his assistant into three pieces and made an elephant disappear! I know that I can't always believe what I see.

Although most of us like to think we can trust our eyes, the Bible reminds us that our physical senses are not the ultimate test of truth. There is something greater than sight. It is faith.

Gardeners, know this-and so do mothers. There are times when the soil in a child's heart seems just as dry and barren as a winter field. There is no sign of growth or fruitfulness. Indeed, the only things visible are a few stones of resentment and anger, some weeds of indifference, parched racks of defiance, it is then that both gardener and mother need the faith the Bible describes; faith that continues to water with prayer, to tend with hope to watch with expectation.

Even after a child is grown, there are times when it is easy for a mother to become discouraged. Our sons and daughters don't always choose the things we think are best for them.. They may not accept our values as their own or decide to follow in our footsteps. At such times it is tempting to remind or nag, to bring up examples that demonstrate (at least for us) the peril they risk by ignoring our advice, we can't see the response we desire, so we believe things are hopeless.

But I'm convinced that at times like this God call us to move beyond sight to a greater place, the place of faith. Faith invites us to invest time and energy long before the first seedling is visible. It calls us to tend with gentleness the relationships we desire to nurture and to be confident that the harvest will come. Although, it is tempting to try to hurry the process of growth in those we love, the result often disappoints us. Lectures and guilt producing "reminders" only drive our children further from us and often destroy the fruit we desire to see.

Walking by faith, believing without seeing, requires moving our confidence from ourselves to our heavenly Father who gives us the perfect pattern for parenting. How has God demonstrated His faith in us, His children? God loves us with an everlasting love that believes in our potential even when there is no evidence of growth. He looks up our unseen heart, our dreams and hopes, and nourishes us with His Word, allowing us to discover His desires for us and manifest them in our lives. He does not wait until we demonstrate perfection before He sheds His approval upon us.

This Mother's Day perhaps it is time for those of us who are mothers to turn the tables and give some very special gifts to our children-the gift of believing in them without reservation, the gift of walking by faith in their precious potential, the gift of trusting in God to bring fourth a harvest of fruitfulness in His perfect time.

*Thank you Father for the gift of children.
Help me to trust in Your provision for them,
learning to walk by faith, not sight.*

Informational Meeting & Discussion

Sunday, May 21, 2017

11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

The Purpose of the Meeting:

The Diaconate have requested a **special church meeting** to provide information and discussion about the appointment of Margaret Keyser as our part-time interim minister. According to the by-laws, it is **not** necessary to vote on an interim minister. Therefore there will **NOT** be a vote taken at this meeting. The purpose is to inform the congregation about this agreement and to discuss where the church is headed. The Moderator, with the help of the Church Council, set the meeting for **Sunday, May 21st**, following the worship service and coffee in Fellowship Hall. Please try to attend.

The agreement with Margaret Keyser calls for her to preach 2 Sundays per month and to be in the office 4 days per month. The Diaconate is looking for a supply minister to conduct worship the other two Sundays.



Women's Fellowship 4th Annual Tea & Luncheon & Entertainment

Saturday, May 6th

NOON

Come, Enjoy and Relax and have a delicious luncheon with entertainment by the MapleWinds Orchestra.

Cost is \$10.00.

Reservations for the tea can be made by calling
Lisa Holloway 978-355-0140 or
Wendy Isgro 978-928-5180.

Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Where: Barre Mill Restaurant

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$12.00

For Reservations

Please call: Wendy Isgro—978-928-5180

or

Lisa Holloway 978-355-0140

By Sunday May 14th.

From The Flower Committee

The flower committee would like to thank those who donated flowers for the sanctuary for Easter Sunday morning.

From The Church Committee

We have some serious building repairs to address. Our application for a grant from Fidelity Bank to repair the roof was not approved. They will keep our application on file. We are waiting on a second grant for painting the church building.

The cost to repair the roof is \$15,000.00

The cost to paint the church is \$14,000.00

The cost of insurance is \$10,000.00

IF anyone has ideas for fund raising, please feel free to share with us.

All organizations using the church profit and non-profit must submit their liability insurance to the church. All organizations have done so except the Barre Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is important to the town and the church committee will continue to work with David Petrovick so that they come into compliance. However, at the present time we **do not** have any liability insurance for the church or the Barre Food Pantry .

The Gift of Time

We want to thank Deb and Charlie Page for restoring the clock in the Sanctuary. Glad to have it back hanging up over the balcony.

We also want to thank Marsha Bray for picking up the mail at the post office. This is very much appreciated and one of the many things Bob Swindell did for many years.

Food Pantry

Barre Food Pantry volunteer opportunity.

The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers 9:00 am-10:00 am and or 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm on the Tuesday before distribution which will be May **10th this month**. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room and sort, date and pre-bag donated groceries for free distribution the next day.

A third opportunity to volunteer is from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on the day of distribution which will be **Wednesday, May 11th**, to help staff the tables, help clients "shop" the food bank offerings and help carry groceries to clients' cars.

Note: We once again need your donations of clean, empty egg cartons. The eggs we purchase each month for distribution to our clients come in bulk. Our volunteers repackage them into dozen-egg cartons for our clients. Our supply has run very low so we need your donation of re-usable cartons. You may leave cartons at our food drop-off boxes at the Barre Senior Center, The Woods Memorial Library, The Barre Health Center or the Barre Congregational Church. For additional information call Sonja @ (978) 355-6921 or Chuck @ (978) 355-6463.

The following items are needed this month:

- canned beans
- baked beans
- canned pasta with meat sauce (like Chef Boyardee)
- cold cereal
- fruit juices are always welcome

We would like to thank those of you who donate to the food pantry and to those of you who volunteer.

Community Friendship Supper

Lasagna Dinner

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend and or family members.

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Served from 5:30 pm –6:30 pm

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.

Church Committee Reminder

For all committees or groups that use the church please make sure the lights are shut off and all doors are locked before you leave the building.

Church Council Meeting

The Next church Council Meeting will be Sunday, June 4th after church.

All committees are urged to send a representative.

Community Opportunities

Quabbin High School Music Dept.

Presents:

Leader of the Pack

May 5 & 6

7:30 at Quabbin Regional High School

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 children 12 and under

Pipe Organ Plus

Sunday, May 7th at 3:00 pm

First Congregation Church

1070 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA

Toni Brown & Deb Page are performing

59th Annual Silver Tea

Congregational Church of Phillipston

Thursday, May 11th at 1:30

\$5.00 donation

RSVP by May 1st

Jean Marshall 978-249-3164

FINANCIAL PAGE

Collector's Report

Loose	700.00
Current	5,811.00
Missions	403.00
Discretionary Fund	12.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Memorial Bob Swindell	1,000.00
Coffee Hour	53.00
UBS	1,534.86
PIF	100.00
Tuesday NA	20.00
Thursday AA	60.00
Beautification Fund	345.45
Total	\$10,044.31
* \$550. was given in Memory of Bob Swindell for the Beautification Fund	

A Stewardship Message

Restore

When life caves in, you do not need reasons, you need comfort. You do not need some answers; you need someone. And Jesus does not come to us with an explanation; he comes to us with his presence.

We are always seeking the reason. We want to know why. Like Job. We finally want God to tell us just what is going on. . .

But God does not reveal his plan, he reveals himself. He comes to us as warmth when we are cold, fellowship when we are alone, strength when we are weak, peace when we are troubled, courage when we are afraid, songs when we are sad, and bread when we are hungry.

He is with us on our journeys. He is there when we are home, He sits with us at our table. He knows about funerals and weddings and commencements and hospitals and jails and unemployment and labor and laughter and rest and tears. He knows because he is with us. He comes to us again and again.

~ Bob Benson

Treasurer's Report

Expenses 1/1/16—4/30/16

Payroll	16,744.00
Office Supplies	177.00
Telephone & Internet	848.00
Postage	20.00
Diaconate	0.00
General Maintenance	2,751.00
Stewardship	0.00
Music	0.00
Christian Ed	0.00
Misc	0.00
Trash pickup	113.00
Sewer	100.00
Water	25.00
Heat & Gas	1,000.00
Electricity	997.00
Insurance	4,963.00
Snow Removal	2,235.00
Piano / Organ	0.00
Alarm	480.00
TOTAL	\$30,453.00
INCOME	
Loose	2,124.00
Pledges	20,314.00
Other	2,721.00
Investment Income	7,194.00
Total	\$32,353.00



Surplus: \$1,900

Average Weekly Giving: \$1,247 ** giving for 4/30 is estimated

**Weekly Giving Needed to meet budget
\$1,612**

May 2017

Come the spring with all its splendor, all its birds and all its blossoms..... Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 –5:00 Music Rehearsal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	3 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 6:30 Church Committee 6:30 Deacons Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	5 7:00 Maplewinds Concert	6 Noon Women's Fellowship Tea 7:00 AA
	7 8:30 Choir warm up 9:30 Service/ Communion/ Sunday school	8 6-9 Girl Scouts	9 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Food Pantry set-up 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	10 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pantry 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA	12
14 8:30 choir warm up 9:30 Service/ Sunday School Mother's Day	15 6-9 Girl Scouts	16 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 –5:00 Music Rehearsal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	17 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 6:00 Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting at Barre Mill Rest.	18 9-1 Wendy's hours 5:30 Community Friendship Supper 7:00 AA	19	20 7:00 AA
21 8:30 Bell Choir warm up 9:30 Service/ Sunday School 11:00 Informational Meeting	22	23 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 –5:00 Music Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	24 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds	25 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	26	27 7:00 AA
28 9:30 Service/ No Sunday School	29 Memorial Day	30 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 –5:00 Music Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	31 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 7:00 Boy Scouts			

Daily Lectionary Scripture References

May 2017 (Year A)

Mon., May. 1
Psalm 134
Genesis 18:1-14
1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., May. 2
Psalm 134
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., May. 3
Psalm 134
Exodus 24:1-11
John 21:1-14

Thurs., May. 4
Psalm 23
Exodus 2:15b-25
1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., May. 5
Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., May. 6
Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Sun., May. 7
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Mon., May. 8
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., May. 9
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wed., May. 10
Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thurs., May. 11
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15

Fri., May. 12
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Sat., May. 13
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Sun., May. 14
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Mon., May. 15
Psalm 102:1-17
Exodus 13:17-22
Acts 7:17-40

Tues., May. 16
Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:5-12
Acts 7:44-56

Wed., May. 17
Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:13-18
John 8:31-38

Thurs., May. 18
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 6:5-22
Acts 27:1-12

Fri., May. 19
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 7:1-24
Acts 27:13-38

Sat., May. 20
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:27-29

Sun., May. 21
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Mon., May. 22
Psalm 93
Genesis 9:8-17
Acts 27:39-44

Tues., May. 23
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
1 Peter 3:8-12

Wed., May. 24
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May. 25
Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May. 26
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

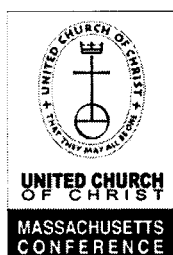
Sat., May. 27
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Sun., May. 28
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

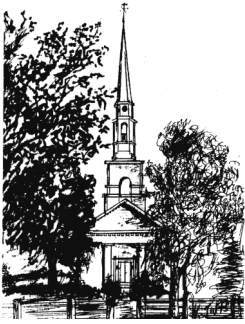
Mon., May. 29
Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tues., May. 30
Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wed., May. 31
Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36



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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.*

