

# 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

Email– [barrechurch@gmail.com](mailto:barrechurch@gmail.com)



# May

## 2018

Happy Spring from the Pastor's desk!

Traveling back home over the weekend from a town a little Southeast from us, I saw the most beautiful cherry blossom trees in full bloom, and daffodils everywhere. Saturday was especially a beautiful sunny day, and it really felt Spring-like. I rushed home, hoping to see at least one or two daffodils opening their yellow faces, but came home a little disappointed, as they were still very much in a deep sleep. Those South East from us are definitely two weeks ahead, I discovered! We all have been patiently waiting for Spring to arrive. I hinted about it from the pulpit, and we talked about it during coffee hour, trying to console one another every time a bout of cold weather came upon us! Nature teaches us to wait patiently for the ideal conditions for new life, new growth, for Spring to arrive in its own time to show its exquisite beauty!

Patience is a decent virtue to have, when we cannot control the weather, and when we sit in heavy traffic; however, patience is even more important when we as human beings try to understand certain things about one another, and when we have expectations of the other, while seeing the world through our own eyes, according to our way. Patience is important, so we can be together in ways that make life easier for everyone involved. It has the ability to deepen our compassion to understand how others think and operate, instead of expecting others to think and act at the same pace and in similar ways than us.

Patience is an indicator of how we regard another human being in her or his own way, without the expectation that they would change according to our own beliefs. Patience to understand, to develop the willingness to walk in the other's feet, to pause and learn about the other's concerns and interests, is what the biblical message is about.

Jesus's earthly life and ministry are about patiently dwelling, sitting, teaching, and understanding the ones who needed healing and forgiveness of sins. He did not expect perfection among those who followed Him, instead was looking for opportunities to bring about a powerful transformation through love and patience. Being in the presence of Christ, meant being church together in the most patient manner.

Patience brings us closer to God. It enables us to be followers of Christ, loving and caring for the ones who create the impatience within us. Patience creates beautiful relationships. It is the gift of our loving God dwelling within us.

As we continue our ministry together here at Barre Congregational Church, we have been given the opportunity to grow in patience with one another. May God bless us in our journey with one another. May we grow in patience with one another, as we wait patiently for the daffodils to open everywhere. Mine started to open yesterday!

Blessings to all of you

*Pastor Margaret*

### **THANK YOU FROM THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank all of you who supported their Annual Spring Tea. They were able to serve 60 people. We have added several new people to our list and we would like to add more every year.

We would also like to thank the Maple winds Orchestra for once again providing the entertainment. If you have not attended and would like to mark calendars for April 6, 2019.

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

**Barre Mill Restaurant**

**Buffet Dinner**

**6:00 pm**

**Cost—**

**For reservations please call Wendy Isgro,  
978-928-5180**



### **CHINA TEACUPS**

The Women's Fellowship is looking for donations of china teacups. We would like to have our own collection for our Annual Tea. We have been borrowing them. Please let Wendy Isgro or Lisa Holloway or leave a message on the church's answering machine know and they will make arrangements to have them picked up or

### **COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP SUPPER Lasagna**

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend and or family members.

Thursday, May 17, 2018

5:30 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.

### **RELAY FOR LIFE**

This year Gardner celebrates their 25th Anniversary in taking part in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. It will be held on June 8th and 9th at Mount Wachusett community College. I'm the team captain for "Survivors and Friends" and am looking for people who might like to join the team, make a donation or both! If you're interested please see me.

Thanks, Deb Page



### **CHICKEN BARBECUE**

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

**5:30 pm**

**Adults \$12.00 Children under 12 \$5.00**

**For Reservations Call**

**Lisa Holloway—978-355-0140**

**Or**

**The Church Office-978-355-4041**

**In order for this supper to happen we  
must have at least 60 reservations. It  
would be really nice to see more  
church participation .**

**Reservations need to be in by**

**May 14th!**

**Remember this is an ongoing fundraiser  
for the church .**

**Come enjoy the friendships and fellowship!**

***Take-outs are always an option.***

### **FOOD PANTRY**

A reminder the Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers. You can volunteer on the Tuesday before the Food Pantry, Tuesday, May 8th from 9 -11 or evening 6:30 and or Wednesday, May 9th from 9:30—noon, distribution day. If you have any questions please call the church office, 978-355-4041.

**Food Pantry could use donations of egg cartoons, mac and cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta canned pasta with sauce, peanut butter, plastic market bags.**

## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### *Reason To Sing*

By Kirsten Holmberg

When I was thirteen my school required students to take four exploratory courses, including home economics, art, choir, and wood-working. On my first day in choir, the instructor called each student to the piano individually to hear their voices and place them in the room according to their vocal range. During my turn at the piano, I sang the notes she played multiple times, but wasn't directed to a section in the room. Instead, after repeated tries, she sent me to the counseling office to find a different class to take. From that moment on, I felt I shouldn't sing at all, that my voice shouldn't be heard in song.

I carried that thought with me for more than a decade until I read Psalm 98 as a young adult. The writer opens with an invitation to "sing to the Lord" (Psalm 98:1). The reason offered has nothing to do with the quality of our voices. He delights in all His children's songs of thanksgiving and praise. Instead, we are invited to sing because God "has done marvelous things" (verse 1).

The psalmist points out two wonderful reasons to joyfully praise God in song and in attitude: His savings work in our lives and His ongoing faithfulness toward us. In God's choir, we each have a place to sing of the marvelous things He has done.

## FROM THE CHURCH COMMITTEE

Spring has finally arrived. The thermostats will be lowered to 55 this week.

We are readying the children's garden for planting.

Putting away the sand/salt and snow shovels.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Barre Congregational Church.

### *The Blessing of Spring*

by Deborah Ann Belka

There are many blessings,  
that each new Spring brings  
you can see it bloom about  
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,  
and brighter days ahead  
comes promises of new life  
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,  
and their buds begin to show  
He sends to us the promise  
His care for us, we will know.

He sends us the robin song,  
with the promise to provide  
that under His mighty wing  
we have a place to hide.

He melts the snowy covers,  
and sends the refreshing rain  
sprinkling us with His grace  
to heal winter's every pain.

God has given to all His Son,  
to shed upon us a new light  
and the real blessing of Spring  
is to keep Jesus in your sight!

### *Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

***"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain  
is over and gone; The flowers appear on  
the earth; the time of the singing of  
birds is come, and the voice of the  
turtle is heard in our land;"***

## 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!

## **FINANCIAL PAGE**

### **EXPENSES: 1/1/18 – 4/30/18**

Payroll	24,763.00
Office Supplies	410.00
Telephone & Internet	863.00
Postage	78.00
General Maintenance	1,405.00
Stewardship	0.00
Music	0.00
Misc	14.00
Trash Pickup	0.00
Sewer	150.00
Water	206.00
Heat & Gas	2,875.00
Electricity	1,632.00
Insurance	4,318.00
Snow Removal	2,930.00
Piano / Organ	0.00
Alarm	480.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,124.00</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Loose	2,856.00
Pledges – current	17,414.00
Other	1,790.00
Investment Income	4,650.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,710.00</b>

### **COLLECTORS REPORT**

Loose	851.50
Current	5,017.00
Missions	321.00
Initial Offering	5.00
UCC Dues	130.00
Oil Bill	225.00
Easter Flowers	313.75
Donation	500.00
UBS	825.00
Discretionary Fund	11.00
Donation to Gordon Cooley Fund	40.00
Tuesday NA	20.00
Thursday AA	52.00
Lathrop	112.45
Friendship Supper	78.00
Roof	40.00
Coffee	98.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8639.70</b>

**Retained Deficit: (\$13,414.00)**

**Average Weekly Giving: \$1,192**

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

**Remaining Balance of roof fund loan: \$7,191**

# May 2018

*Once you choose hope, anything's possible ~ Christopher Reeves*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>2</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. <b>6:00 Women's Fellowship Dinner—Barre Mill</b> 6-7 Daisys <b>6:30 Church Committee</b> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 AA
<b>6</b> 8:30 Bell warm-up 9:30 Service/Communion/ Sunday School	<b>7</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>8</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>9</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>10</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 AA
<b>13</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday School  <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 NA	<b>16</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours	<b>17</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>5:30 Friendship Community Supper</b> 7:00 AA	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>5:30 Church Supper</b>  7:00 AA
<b>20</b> 9:30 Service/ Sunday school <b>11:00 Church Council</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>23</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 6-7 Daisy's 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 AA
<b>27</b> 9:30 Service/NO Sunday School	<b>28</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2018 (Year B)

### **Tues., May 1**

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 32:9-20  
James 3:17-18

### **Wed., May 2**

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
John 14:18-31

### **Thurs., May 3**

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 49:5-6  
Acts 10:1-34

### **Fri., May 4**

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 42:5-9  
Acts 10:34-43

### **Sat., May 5**

Psalm 98  
Deuteronomy 32:44-47  
Mark 10:42-45

### **Sun., May 6**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### **Mon., May 7**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 7:1-11  
1 Timothy 6:11-12

### **Tues., May 8**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 11:1-17  
1 Timothy 6:13-16

### **Wed., May 9**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 11:18-21  
Mark 16:19-20

### **Thurs., May 10**

*Ascension of the Lord*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

### **Fri., May 11**

Psalm 47  
Exodus 24:15-18  
Revelation 1:9-18

### **Sat., May 12**

Psalm 47  
Deuteronomy 34:1-7  
John 16:4-11

### **Sun., May 13**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### **Mon., May 14**

Psalm 115  
Exodus 28:29-38  
Philippians 1:3-11

### **Tues., May 15**

Psalm 115  
Numbers 8:5-22  
Titus 1:1-9

### **Wed., May 16**

Psalm 115  
Ezra 9:5-15  
John 16:16-24

### **Thurs., May 17**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Genesis 2:4b-7  
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

### **Fri., May 18**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Job 37:1-13  
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

### **Sat., May 19**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 15:6-11  
John 7:37-39

### **Sun., May 20**

*Day of Pentecost*  
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### **Mon., May 21**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Joel 2:18-29  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

### **Tues., May 22**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Genesis 11:1-9  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### **Wed., May 23**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
John 20:19-23

### **Thurs., May 24**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20  
Romans 8:1-8

### **Fri., May 25**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Romans 8:9-11

### **Sat., May 26**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 5:15-24  
John 15:18-20, 26-27

### **Sun., May 27**

*Trinity Sunday*  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

### **Mon., May 28**

Psalm 20  
Numbers 9:15-23  
Revelation 4:1-8

### **Tues., May 29**

Psalm 20  
Exodus 25:1-22  
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

### **Wed., May 30**

Psalm 20  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Mark 4:21-25

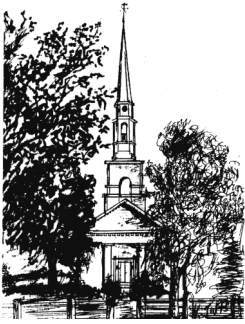
### **Thurs., May 31**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 1:1-18  
Acts 25:1-12



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CONFERENCE**

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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.*