



MAY 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~ May 2015

Like A Breath of Fresh Air

Kenneth L. Samuel

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" - Psalm 133 (NIV)

The realm of God is often depicted as a lion and a lamb lying down together. In the dog eat dog world we live in, this image is so refreshingly different from what we're accustomed to that it startles our imagination and beckons the hope that lies still within us.

Unity in the midst of wide-spread diversity is the greatest challenge we face in our communities, in our nation and in our world today.

The magnitude of religious controversies, culture wars, partisan rivalries and racial conflicts make it appear that this vision of God's realm is nothing more than a pipe dream.

But then God gives us a glimpse of what it could be like, and what it must be like, if our communities are to survive.

Haaz Sleiman, a Lebanese Muslim, plays the role of Jesus in the movie, "Killing Jesus" - adapted from the NY Times best selling book co-authored by Fox News host, Bill O'Reilly.

A glimpse of God's realm.

James Clyburn, a straight, black politician from the conservative South speaks out strongly in support of Marriage Equality as a Civil Rights issue.

A glimpse of God's realm.

One dark rainy night, a white man on patrol (who could be a George Zimmerman) spots a black man in a hoodie (who could be a Trayvon Martin). The white patrolman offers the black man a ride home in the rain, without fear; and the black man accepts the ride, without fear.

A glimpse of God's realm.

How good and pleasant it is!

Prayer Enable us O God, to make the vision of your realm plain for all to see. Amen.

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May, the month of celebrating mothers and memories and military personnel from the Civil War even to our present time. In our church, we're also going to celebrate the faith of five young people as they are confirmed and become members of our church on May 17, and then we'll surround with our love the Lapointe Family who are raising their children as Christians in our church home by baptizing 3 of their children on May 24.

What is the church in the 21st century? What is the church here in Barre? Who are we and what is God asking of us now?

Perhaps we will find answers in the worship services we celebrate together this month or perhaps through the words that I share from the UCC Writer's Group Daily Devotional (that you can access on line). Please be with us and bring family and friends to share the wonder of God's love, the power of God's word in scripture, and the grace of God's call as we continue growing in faithful discipleship. We are God's beloved community under construction, building for the future, living and learning in the present. Thanks be to God!

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Deborah". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letter of "Pastor" being a large capital 'P' and the last letter of "Deborah" being a capital 'H'.

Pastor Deborah

Community Events
Phillipston Congregational Church
57th Annual Silver Tea

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 1:30 pm

RSVP by May 6, 2015

Call Wendy Isgro, 978-928-5180

Or

Lisa Holloway , 978-355-0140

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Quabbin Music Department is presenting the musical "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" on May 8th, 9th, and 10th. Tickets are available by contacting tbrown@grsd.org. Come have fun with this enjoyable tale of quirky "tweens" finding out about themselves during a spelling bee.

Mother-Daughter Dinner

St Francis of Assisi Parish will be hosting a Mother-Daughter Dinner on a, May 9th at 5:30 pm at St. Joseph's Church Hall.

Come and Enjoy a delicious Baked Stuffed Chicken Dinner catered by Scott Toupin.

Tickets are Adults \$8.00 & Children \$5.00. Please call Diana Clark for tickets, 978-355-4039.

All women are invited. The ladies of St. Francis of Assisi Parish hope to see you there!

Memorial Day Services

9:15 South Barre Common

10:00 St. Joseph's Cemetery

10:45 Glen Valley Cemetery

Noon North Park, Barre Common

Barre Food Pantry News

Our next distribution is **Wednesday, May 13th from 10:00 am—noon** with preparation the day and evening before on Tuesday the 12th.

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.

Women's Fellowship
Annual Dinner & Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

6:00 pm

Petersham Congregational Church

Myra Hadaka and her kitchen crew are serving the ladies a delicious Roast Beef Dinner,

Appetizers, salad and dessert also.

\$10.00 per person

Our Last Event Until the Fall!!

**Chicken Barbecue &
Entertainment**

(The Chancel Ringers from the
West Boylston Congregational Church)

Saturday, May 16, 2015

5:30 pm

The cost of dinner is \$10.00 for Adults

\$5.00 for Children under 12

A free will offering will be taken during the entertainment.

Thank You

Lisa and I would like to thank all of you who supported the Women's Fellowship over the last two years of our term.

Co-Presidents working together has worked out for the two of us and we are sure it would work for two other ladies. If no one comes forward Women's Fellowship **will not** have a President come October. If you would like more info please call wither Lisa or Wendy.

Collector's Monthly Report

April

Loose Offering	678.25
Missions	341.00
Current pledges	7,392.00
NA Group	50.00
Initial Offering	10.00
PIF AA	100.00
Heard it from the Grapevine	50.00
Hope Fens	25.00
<u>Sue Fullam Memorial Fund</u>	<u>550.00</u>
Total for April	\$10,380.15

Graduates



It's graduation time for those members and friends who will be graduating from High School or College please let Wendy know by the 18th of May so that we can publish the names and achievements in the next Spire.

Sunday School News

It has been exciting to see our Sunday school expanding! May is almost here and is going to be a busy month!

May 3rd is Family Communion—The children may stay in church to participate in the sacrament.

May 31st is Children's Sunday—the children will participate in the service. They are asked to be at the church by 9:00 am.

The Children are still collecting pencils, erasers, markers, etc. for children in Haiti.

Heifer Project —the children are collecting quarters the buy animals. Families are welcome to attend the Heifer Project with their children on Sunday, June 14th (more info to follow)

If you have any questions please call or see Erica skerry or Krisiti Haupt.

Treasurers Report

Expenses: 1/1/15-4/30/15

Payroll	33,941.00
Office Supplies	1,879.00
Telephone & Internet	1,079.00
Equipment Maintenance	711.00
General Maintenance	2,490.00
Cleaning Supplies	205.00
Misc	75.00
Flowers	324.00
Water & Sewer	258.00
Heat & Gas	4,120.00
Electricity	1,715.00
Insurance	4,635.00
Snow Removal	1,535.00
Piano / Organ	260.00
Alarm	480.00

TOTAL **\$ 53,707.00**

Income

Loose	1,842.00
Pledges	26,642.00
Other	2,163.00
Loan payments	3,183.00
Investment Interest	5,731.00
Total	\$39,561.00

Transferred from savings for ordinary expenses: **\$11,400.00**
(Balance in checking account on 1/1/15) :
\$2,236.41

Operating Deficit: \$14,146.00

Correction and Apology

Irene & Richard Stevens names were omitted from the Upper Room Brochure. The generously donated the curtains for the new Upper Room.

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7-10 Spring Fling Dance Hartman's 7:00 AA
3 9:30 Service/ Family Com- munion/Sunday School	4 6-8 Girl Scouts Confirmation Interviews	5 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Les- sons 6:00 Bell Choir 6-7 Girl Scouts 6:30 Church Committee 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anony- mous Confirmation Inter- views	6 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Women's Fellowship— Petersham Cong. Church	7 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	8	9 7:00 AA
10 8:30 choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday School Mother's Day	11 6-8 Girl Scouts	12 Wendy Jury Duty 9:00 Food Pantry set- up 2:30-6:00 Music Les- sons 6:00 Bell Choir 6 Food Pantry set-up 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anony- mous	13 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pan- try 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 6:30 Q-Drug Community Meeting at senior Center 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	15	16 5:30 Church Supper w/ Bell Choir from West Boylston 7:00 AA
17 8 Confirmation Break- fast 8:30 choir warm-up 9:30 Service / Confirmation/ Sunday school	18 6-8 Girl Scouts 6:30 Deacon- ate	19 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Narcotic Anony- mous	20 9-1 Wendy's hours	21 9-2 Wendy's hours 5:30 Community Friendship Sup- per 7:00 AA	22	23 7 AA
24 9:30 Service/ NO Sunday School/ Baptism LaPoint	25 Memorial Day	26 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Les- sons 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anony- mous	27 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	29	30
31 9:30 Service/ Children's Sunday		—————Pastor Deborah on vacation May 26—30—————				

Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2015 (Year B)

Fri., May 1

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:11-13
Acts 8:9-25

Sat., May 2

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 9:7-15
Mark 4:30-32

Sun., May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Mon., May 4

Psalm 80
Isaiah 5:1-7
Galatians 5:16-26

Tues., May 5

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

Wed., May 6

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

Thurs., May 7

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

Fri., May 8

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

Sat., May 9

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

Sun., May 10

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Mon., May 11

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

Tues., May 12

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

Wed., May 13

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

Thurs., May 14

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

Fri., May 15

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

Sat., May 16

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

Sun., May 17

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

Mon., May 18

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

Tues., May 19

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

Wed., May 20

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

Thurs., May 21

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

Fri., May 22

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

Sat., May 23

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

Sun., May 24

Pentecost Sunday
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 25

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

Tues., May 26

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

Wed., May 27

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

Thurs., May 28

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

Fri., May 29

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

Sat., May 30

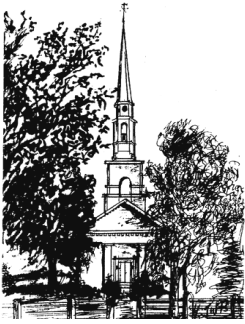
Psalm 29
Isaiah 5:15-24
John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sun., May 31

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



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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.*

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