

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 ~

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ~ (Ephesians 4:15)

On Sunday, September 27, a majority of the voting members present at the special congregational meeting accepted the six recommendations of the MACUCCC to help resolve “conflict and the financial situation.”

In her introduction to the recommendations, MACUCC Associate Conference Minister Rev. Kelly Gallagher stated: “It is clear from the conversations with groups within the church that there is a history of conflict and lack of communication within the congregation. Much like many congregations, this conflict often surfaces around finances and change. There appears to be need for structural accountability and transparency throughout the governance of the church.”

In her comments to those in attendance Sunday, she observed that the institutional church has not kept pace with the changes that have taken place in the world over the last 5 or 6 decades, and that we, like many other MA congregations need to review all aspects of our organizational structure so that we can continue to faithfully respond to the needs of our neighbors in this time. We know that the process itself will generate moments of disagreement, confusion, and a temporary sense of disorientation. However, the goals of this process are to clarify our sense of mission in response to God’s call, to identify the gifts for ministry within our own congregation and to maximize their effectiveness in ways that may bear no resemblance to how we’ve always done things.

I woke up this morning with the words from Harry Emerson Fosdick’s hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory” on my mind – *grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of these days, for the living of these days*. I turned to hymn # 366 in the Pilgrim Hymnal, itself a reminder of Congregational history from the 1940’s and 50’s. Before I wrote this month’s Ponderings, I read not only the lyrics but also something about Rev. Fosdick. I was curious to know what motivated him to write such prayerful, powerful words I verse 3 of the hymn: *Cure thy children’s warring madness; Bend our pride to thy control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, Lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal, Lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.*

According to Wikipedia: The Reverend Harry Emerson Fosdick (May 24, 1878 – October 5, 1969) was one of the most prominent American pastors of the 20th Century. He became a central figure in the "Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy" within American Protestantism in the 1920s and 1930s. He was ordained a Baptist minister in 1903; he became a guest preacher in New York City, at First Presbyterian Church in Manhattan's West Village, and then at the historic, inter-denominational Riverside Church in Morningside Heights, Manhattan.

Inside this Issue	
	1-3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8/9

On May 21, 1922, he delivered his famous sermon “Shall the Fundamentalists Win?” in which he defended the modernist position. *In that sermon, he presented the Bible as a record of the unfolding of God’s will, not as the literal Word of God.” He saw the history of Christianity as one of development, progress, and gradual change.* To the fundamentalists, this was rank apostasy, and the battle lines were drawn. (I added the italics)

Whenever October rolls around, I think of Martin Luther. On October 31, 1517, at Wittenberg, Germany, Martin Luther affixed a list of 95 theses or points he wished to dispute, debate, or otherwise present to a gathering of his learned peers and church leaders. He wanted to talk not create a whole new church, but the result of years of “disputation” was the final break from the Church of Rome and as a result, the formation of many branches of Protestantism.

The introduction to his irenic invitation reads:

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Thus began a transitional chapter in “The Reformation,” a process, truth be told, that had been underway within the Christian Church for more than 300 years when Martin Luther set forth his challenges. A church history professor I had in seminary insisted his students use the term “reformationS” because, he taught us, God is constantly in the process of re-forming, reshaping the church for service to each age. Perhaps my professor was influenced by Harry Emerson Fosdick and surely both had been influenced by Martin Luther and the earliest apostles who, from the first, saw that discipleship in Christ’s name would never be a once and for all event but an ongoing, continual process.

New Englanders may have inherited a tendency towards “disputation” from the Pilgrims who broke away from the Church of England and sought religious freedom first in Holland and then here in America.

Only thirty-five members of Robinson's Leiden congregation actually sailed to America on the Mayflower joined by sixty-six people from Southampton and London who had little religious motivation for joining the Pilgrims. Before Carver and his group left Leiden, a solemn service was held, at which Robinson chose Ezra 8:21 as his text:

“Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.”

At the sailing of the Speedwell from Delfshaven, part of Robinson's Farewell speech read:

I Charge you before God and his blessed angels that you follow me no further than you have seen me follow Christ. If God reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth from my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from His holy word.

In the United Church of Christ, our God Is Still Speaking campaign was built on Rev. Robinson’s words: “I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from His holy word.”

Dear friends in Christ, our Lord Jesus prayed, as Rev. Kelly Gallagher observed, “that they [we] might all be one” (John 17:21) not that all might agree. John 17:21 is the motto of the United Church of Christ.

I, too, believe God has more truth for all of Christ's followers to learn and is bringing about the in-breaking of His light through a process of dialog, debate, and undoubtedly some dispute. We're in good and historic company. I am praying that we may learn to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) so that God's word continues to be revealed through the voices and actions of those who are devoted to our church and committed to passing along the love of Christ to generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Please pray for one another and for our church.

With love,



God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on they people pour thy power; Crown thine ancient church's story; Bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us, Scorn thy Christ, assail his was! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; Bend our pride to thy control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that they may be Armored with all Christ-like graces In the fight to set all free. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, That we fail not man nor thee, That we fail not man nor thee.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore; Let the search for thy salvation Be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, Serving thee whom we adore, Serving thee whom we adore.

Good Things Travel by Work of Mouth

John Edgerton

*The living, the living—they praise you,
as I am doing today;*

parents tell their children

about your faithfulness." - Isaiah 38:10-20

When buying something on Amazon I always read the reviews first. For example, if I'm buying a new cookbook, I want to hear about the recipes from people who actually have experience using the book and took the time to share what they know. Heck, my wife wrote a review on Amazon for Mark Bittman's *How to Cook Everything Vegetarian* that is still that book's number one negative review after seven years (sorry, Mr. Bittman). The truth is that testimonies have power. For all the technology at their disposal, for all their resources, for all their global reach, Amazon still relies upon the simple fact that people take personal testimony seriously. People trust one another motives and that's powerful.

It bothers me to think that I might be reminded of the importance of testimony by an entity with ".com" in its name. Because if people want to hear from others before they will commit to a cookbook, how much more will they want to hear from others before they will commit to a life of faith?

Today, learn this lesson from a trustworthy source—the Prophet Isaiah. Today you are alive and it is the gift of the living that we may praise God and testify to God's goodness. You have good news worth sharing with those who need it. Tell one person today about how God has been a blessing in your life. It will gladden the heart of God and maybe—just maybe—it might help the church a bit too.

Prayer

God, help me to share the joy You have given me with others.

John Edgerton is the Associate Pastor at Old South Church, Boston, MA

Contacting the Pastor

Thanks to the plethora of communications devices, I am almost always available if you have pastoral needs. You may contact me at rev.deborah.loomis.lafond@gmail.com; barrechurch@gmail.com; www.barrechurch.com; by calling the church office [978-355-4041](tel:978-355-4041) or my home phone [978-257-8362](tel:978-257-8362). You may also text or call me at [978-807-9279](tel:978-807-9279). There is, of course, snail mail and I do enjoy and appreciate your notes and cards!

In an effort to reduce overhead costs this summer, we closed the office on Tuesday. We resumed "regular" office hours on September 8. Wendy is in the office from 9 to 1 on Tuesday and Wednesday and 9 to 2 on Thursday. My (drop in) office hours are from 11 to 3 on Tuesday and Wednesday. You may, however, request an appointment at a time convenient for you (evenings and weekends included).

Wendy and I have worked out a nice routine for finalizing the worship bulletin on Thursday morning so I work from home; Thursday afternoons, I'm often visiting or working on-line either doing research, or praying with/for people via email or text, or out in the community, for example, preparing for a Community Friendship Dinner or participating as a member of the QDRUG Steering Committee. I try to take Friday off as my Sabbath, and yes, I do work Saturday.

Some weeks, my schedule varies because "life" intervenes but generally speaking, Wendy knows where I am and how to reach me. I'll try to leave a note on the door if I'm not in the office during usual office hours. Please remember that when I'm unavailable, our Deacons are. Each month there is one "duty Deacon" who may be contacted for help and support; each Deacon works with the other 5, too, so no one is ever without access to loving care.

Friendly Visitors

Irene Stevens recently asked for people to let her know if they'd be willing to visit members who are in nursing homes or care facilities or who are home-bound. We have been blessed by the following folks who are willing to visit, run an errand, or assist caregivers in limited ways if they need to be away for an hour or so. Please call Irene or Pastor Deborah to make arrangements; if possible, give us 48 hours notice. We will put you in touch with a volunteer directly but for their safety, we do not want to publish their phone numbers.

In addition to Irene and Richard Stevens, Ann Stephenson, Lois Cooley, Jim Van Wert, Kathy Fritcher, and those available nights and weekends are Janice Handrahan, Toni Musnicki Brown, and Sue Musnicki. Thank you for your willingness to share your time and love.



34th Rutland Crop Hunger Walk

Rutland, MA

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Registration - 12:15 pm

Kick-off - 1:00 pm

1st Congregational Church, Rutland

Celebration: 3:00 pm

Party, Prizes, Pizza & Awards: 3:00

St Patrick's Parish Center

If you would like to walk please call or see Jennifer Peddle, 1-413-221-1284

Sunday School

This Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. There will be Sunday school for those children who do not wish to take communion.

Sunday, October 18 will be the Children's Crop Walk. This will take place during Sunday school on the common across the street from the church. Please sign a permission slip on or before the 18th.

Sunday school begins in the chapel after the Time with the Children. The children meet together to share celebrations, concerns, prayers, and offering. The children then go to their classrooms. The children return to the chapel about 10:30 for singing until about 10:45.

Singing Schedule in church:

November 8 December 20

Youth Group

Youth Group for grades 6 and up will be held approximately twice a month during the Sunday school time. This will be led by Stacie Demetropoulos. On the Sundays there is no Youth Group, there will be Sunday school classed for grades 6 and up led by Kristi Haupt.

If you have any questions please contact, Amanda LaRoche, Kristi Haupt, Jennifer Knipe Erica Skerry, Trisia Erickson, Stacie Demetropoulos

FEED BACK NEEDED:

A small committee as suggested by the UCC met on Monday talked about "What the Job Requirements are for a "Part Time Pastor."

The committee would like to present their ideas to the congregation this **Sunday, October 4th at 11:00 am** after church.

The Committee is looking for your comments and ideas. It is important to remember "everyone's opinion matters."

Shirley Lewis, Laura Friedman, Bob, Swindell, Lois Cooley, Lisa Holloway, Irene Stevens, Sue Morrall

Women's Fellowship

The first meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be held on Monday, October 19, 2015. It will be a Potluck Meal and there will be a presentation "What's in a Window."

All Women of All Ages of the Church and Community are invited to come and see what we are all about. No commitment is required, pick and choice the meetings you would like to attend.

Wreath's

It is time to place order for wreaths. We would like to make this Women's Fellowship Sale bigger than ever.

If you know of someone who would like a wreath please have them call Wendy 978-928-5180. Wreath's are the same price as last year, \$25.00. The basic wreath will be decorated with a bow, cones & berries.

If you would like extra decorations please let us know at the time of your order.

The monies from the wreath sale is always put towards a need of our church.

Bell Choir

Our season begins on Sunday, October 4th at 11:00 am in the Upper Room. It's multi-generational; ages 10 (grade 4) and up are welcome to attend. The year will be divided up into sections to make commitments easier. Bell choir will be playing on November 22nd. Questions? Talk to Toni Brown or Deb Page.

Church Supper It's Supper Time!
First Church Supper of the Season!
Saturday, October 10, 2015 5:30 pm

What's on the menu? Roast Pork Dinner, Salad & rolls, Roast Pork, 2 vegetables
Potato, A delicious dessert

All for the price of Adults \$12.00 and children under 12 \$5.00

Barre Food Pantry News

The September Distribution will be **Wednesday, October 14 from 10:00 am—noon** with preparation the day and evening before on Tuesday the 8th.

For our upcoming October 14th distribution, we have need of additional:

Peanut Butter	Macaroni & cheese
Canned green beans	baked beans
Canned pasta	Beef stew
Rice and rice mixes	juice of any kind

Volunteers are welcome!!! If you would like to volunteer please call

Sonja, 978-355-6921 or Chuck 978-355-6463.

Community Friendship Suppers

The Community Friendship Suppers are from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. on the third Thursday of each month. Come for good food, for good fellowship, for goodness sake! Bring friends or make new ones. Everyone needs a break from cooking once in a while! Suppers are free and open to the public. Free will offerings are added to our Missions income to help those in need close to home and far away. All are welcome!!!

Next Supper is October 15, 2015
Soup & Chowders

Candlelight Vigil

A time to come together to remember those we have lost to addiction and substance use, to celebrate those who have been returned to us through recovery. To share hope for those currently struggling with addiction.

Sunday, October 4th 6:00 pm
St. Thomas a Becket Church
380 Vernon Ave.

Barre, MA

Sponsored by Q-Drug

ODRUG

The major goal of the Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group (QDRUG) is to provide education about substance addiction while lessening the stigma associated with drug use. We are not a 12 step program. We are a unique network of professionals and concerned citizens who believe that, together, we can stand up against drug abuse.

On the second Wednesday of each month, there is an open "community meeting" where anyone in the greater Quabbin area is welcome to share their story or resource information, connect with others whose loved ones are struggling to recover or have died from substance addiction, and hear a variety of speakers addressing topics that may help alleviate feelings of isolation and hopelessness.

Community Meetings are held from 6 to 7:30 PM at the Barre Senior Center or at the Barre Family Health Center; monthly listings can be found on our QDRUG Facebook page as well as listed in the Barre Gazette.

Special topic programs are held on the fourth Wednesday each month at either Quabbin Regional High School, Ruggles Lane School, the Barre Senior Center, or at the Barre Family Health Center. All events are free and open to the public although some programs are more appropriate for adults than for youth or children.

On Wednesday Oct 28th we will be having a presentation by "Medicine Man" Frank Huntley & Dr. Tina Runyan at the Barre Senior Center, 6:00-7:30. Frank's story of recovery from unintentional addiction is as shocking as it is heartwarming and he candidly explores how drug addiction can happen to anyone in any walk of life.



Collector's Monthly Report

August 30/September

Loose Offering	538.43
Missions	491.25
Current pledges	5,464.00
PIF	100.00
Grapevine/AA	20..00
Memorial Esther Bacon	1,581.00
<u>Community Day</u>	<u>605..00</u>
Total for Aug 30/ September	\$8,799.68

September Attendance

9	<u>Labor Day Weekend</u>				
	16 Adults				
	1 Children	17			
13	<u>Homecoming</u>				
	44 Adults				
	15 Children	59			
20	Sunday School Begins				
	38 Adults				
	23 Children	61			
27	Kelly Gallagher, preaching				
	58 Adults				
	20 Children	78			

A Word about the Lock Change & A Thank You

The Church Committee would like to thank Adam Knipe for changing the back door. It is nice to have a door that closes easily and looks fresh & welcoming.

When installing the new door a new lock was installed. New keys are currently being issued. A returnable \$20.00 security fee is being charge when new keys are being issued.

Please see Bob Swindell if you would like a new key.

Treasurers Report

Expenses: 1/1/15-8/31/15

Payroll	\$73,749.00
Office Supplies	3,781.00
Telephone & Internet	2,172.00
Equipment Maintenance	854.00
General Maintenance	2,030.00
Christian Education	287.00
Cleaning Supplies	205.00
Misc	875.00
Flowers	324.00
Water & Sewer	628.00
Heat & Gas	6,820.00
Electricity	2,688.00
Insurance	9,447.00
Snow Removal	1,535.00
Piano / Organ	260.00
Alarm	480.00
TOTAL	\$106,135.00

Income

Loose	3,410.00
Pledges	55,153.00
Other	\$9,143.00
Investment interest	18,783.00
	\$86,489.00

Transferred from savings for ordinary expenses: **\$23,827.00**

(Balance in checking account on 1/1/15) : **\$2,236.41**

Operating Deficit: **\$19,646.00**

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	2	3 9-12 Farmer's Market 7:00 AA
4 9:30 Service/ World Commu- nion/Sunday School	5 6:00 Girl Scouts	6 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Choir	7 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Barre Women's Club 7:00 AA	9	10 9-12 Farmer's Market 5:30 Church Supper 7:00 AA
11 9:30 Service/ Sunday school	12 Columbus Day	13 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:30 Community Day Planning Meeting 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Choir	14 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pantry 6-8 Maplewinds	15 9-1 Wendy's hours 5:30 Commu- nity Friend- ship Supper 7:00 AA	16	17 8-3:00 Super Satur- day— Framing- ham, MA 9-12 Farmer's Market 7:00 AA
18 9:30 Service 1:00 Crop Walk —Rutland	19 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 wom- en's Fellow- ship Potluck Dinner & Presentation	20 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Choir	21 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds	22 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	23	24 9-12 Farmer's Market 7 AA
25 9:30 Service	26 6:00 Girl Scouts	27 9-1 Wendy's hours 5:30 Joint Music & Diaconate Meeting 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Choir	28 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds	29 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	30	31 Halloween

Daily Lectionary Scripture References September 2015 (Year B)

Tues., Sept. 1

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3
1 Peter 2:19-25

Wed., Sept. 2

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 3

Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19
Romans 2:1-11

Fri., Sept. 4

Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27
Romans 2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 5

Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31
Matthew 15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 6

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 7

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 8:32-9:6
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Tues., Sept. 8

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 11:1-31
Hebrews 12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 9

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 14:1-9
Matthew 17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 10

Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17
Hebrews 11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 11

Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29
James 2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 12

Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17
Matthew 21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 13

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26-8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Mon., Sept. 14

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 22:1-21
Romans 3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 15

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 16

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 29:1-27
John 7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 17

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 18

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33
Romans 11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 19

Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Matthew 23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 20

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 21

Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27
James 4:8-17

Tues., Sept. 22

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 23

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
John 8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 24

Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21
Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 25

Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23
Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 26

Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15
Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Sept. 27

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Mon., Sept. 28

Psalm 140
Esther 4:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Tues., Sept. 29

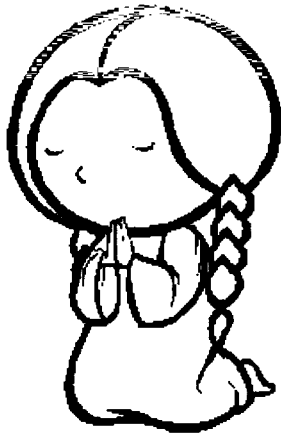
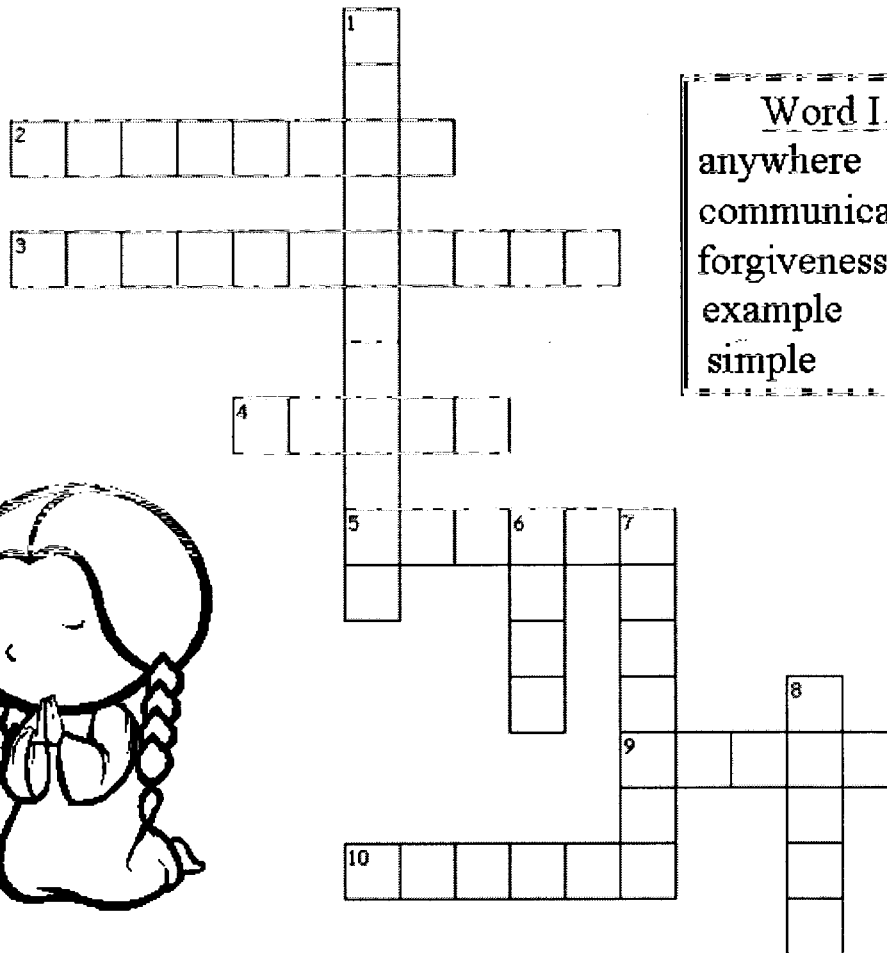
Psalm 140
Esther 5:1-14
1 John 2:18-25

Wed., Sept. 30

Psalm 140
Esther 8:1-17
Matthew 18:6-9



Lord's Prayer Crossword

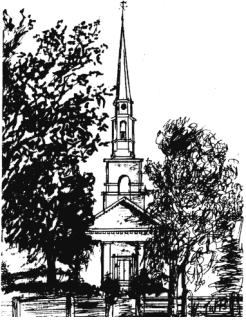


Across

2. We can pray anytime and ____.
3. Prayer is the special way we ____ with God.
4. We fold these out of respect and to avoid distraction when we pray.
5. Instead of using fancy words when we pray it's best to keep it this.
9. Praying has a lot of this because God can do anything.
10. Include this in your prayer to God because he deserves to hear it.

Down

1. An important part of prayer is to ask for this.
6. God wants us to do this all the time. When things are good and bad.
7. The Lord's Prayer is an ____ so we can know how to pray.
8. God always ____ us when we pray.



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.