

# *Spire*

*Barre Congregational Church, UCC*

Pastor – Margaret Keyser Organist – Deborah Page

Choir Director – Karla Peterson & Scott Bryant

Sexton – Clark Family Church Secretary – Wendy

Isgro

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2017

## *A Message from Pastor Margaret*

This past Sunday was my last Sunday with you, dear members of Barre Congregational Church, before my trip to South Africa to visit my family. It was a beautiful Communion service, and I was blessed to share the service with Rev Charlie Page. A couple of members jokingly commented that the service was beautiful, but a little too long, and I thought by myself... maybe I needed to keep you a little longer, because of my departure to South Africa this week! Once everyone left, I returned to the sanctuary, enjoying the quiet space where we all just gathered, the space where we shared in the holy communion. I breathed in the love we all share, and the joy we have during the children's service, the sound of the organ and the beautiful voices of the choir. I thanked God for you...

I packed up, went outside, and took pictures of the church with the beautiful nativity scene in the front yard, and walked around the beautiful Common for a bit...

I pray that this beautiful House of God will be the gathering place of God's love and joy during the next few weeks, and that you will enjoy one another's company. May the story of Christ during this Advent time bring you to places inside yourselves where you will experience the favor of God in a special and powerful way. Mary and Joseph were ordinary human beings like you and me, but the work of God broke through the ordinary lives of these two individuals in the most powerful way. May the Holy Spirit come over you in your homes, your family gatherings, in church, at work...wherever you are, and bring the message of good tidings, of hope and comfort, of peace and joy.

May we all experience the safety and protection as we go about our days, our journeys. May we experience healing from sickness, relief from pain and suffering, and may we all have something to eat and to drink. When we look into the eyes of those in need, may we find it in our hearts to give, and be present in love and comfort to them.

I leave hear, carrying you in my heart, and pray that God will bless you and me with our families.

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Margaret*

## HOLIDAY SERVICES

December 10---Rev Charles Page  
December 17---Rev Charles Page  
                  Christmas Sunday  
December 24--- No morning Church Service  
                  7:00 pm Children's Christmas Service  
                  11:00 pm--Christmas Eve Service  
  
                  Rev Charles Page  
December 31--- Hymn Sing in Fellowship Hall  
                  with refreshments

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP THANK YOU

The Women would like to thank all of you who attended, supported and helped out with this year's fair. Those of you who baked for the bake table, contributed to the raffle table, made candy and those of you who enjoyed the delicious tea and luncheon **THANK YOU!** Wendy would like to also thank all of you who helped out with the wreaths. Bow makers, sales people, callers and most of all those who came and decorated and deliverers. This is a major part of the church fair. For all of those who purchased wreaths , **THANK YOU!** A big **THANK YOU** to the businesses that supported the wreath sale it is nice to drive or walk around the town center and see all our wreaths. One of the businesses in town gave a very generous donation. **THANK YOU!**

## GORDON COOLEY GIVING TREE

There are still angels available on the Gordon Cooley Giving Tree. If you would like to help out a child from Ruggles Lane School or Stetson Home please come and take an angel. The Missions Committee asks that you have the gifts back to the church no later than December 15th.

## COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP SUPPER

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend and or family members.

Thursday, December 21, 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.

## ENJOY THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON!

December 10— Bell Choir  
December 17—Mixed Company  
                  Children's Choir  
                  Adult Choir  
December 24– 7:00 pm Family Service—  
                  Special Musicians  
                  11:00 pm Choir & Ward  
                  Holloway on conga  
December 31— 9:30 am Sing-a-Long Enjoy  
                  favorite carols welcome in the  
                  new year

## FROM THE CHURCH COMMITTEE

On November 19th the budget for 2018 was voted on and approved at an All church Meeting.

At that meeting there was also a revision to the bylaws for a **one year period** any member of the church committee or diaconate will be able to serve another term. In the past a member would not be able to continue if their term ended they would have to leave the committee for one year and then would be able to serve on that committee for another 3 years.

If you would like a copy of the budget please notify Wendy and she will get you a copy.

We Wish all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



## GREETINGS AND THANK YOU!

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your love and support and your helping hands when I have needed it over the past year.*

*I wish you all a very Happy Holiday season and I also wish you all the very best in the Year to come.*

*Blessings and Love,  
Wendy Isgro, office manager*

## **FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

*I am a steward of divine abundance.*

*I give and receive with gratitude.*

My divine inheritance is unlimited blessings, and with great joy and gratitude, I accept that I am heir to the kingdom within. I set aside any thoughts of lack or limitation, for God's good in unlimited and inexhaustible. I give thanks for the divine gifts of life, love, and wisdom, accepting them as tools toward a prosperous life. I use them wisely and share with others the bountiful blessings I receive with generosity. In faith I know that giving creates a void that will be quickly and lovingly filled.

Whatever my need, I know it will be met. I am a steward of divine abundance. I give and receive with gratitude.

*Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they? Matthew 6:26*

With grateful thanks.

Merry Christmas The Stewardship Committee

**The Stewardship sent out a reminder letter to those of you who must have misplaced your pledge card and did not return it or forgot to fill it out. Please fill it out and return it to the church office so that your pledge can help the general expenses of the church and or the missions committee. Thank you.**

## **FOOD PANTRY**

**Donations have been very low. Please try to donate the following items this month:**

- ◆ Macaroni and cheese
- ◆ Cereal (Hot or Cold)
- ◆ Tuna
- ◆ Canned chicken
- ◆ Pasta Sauce/Pasta
- ◆ **Personal Hygiene products**

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

**Barre Food Pantry volunteer opportunity.**

The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congrega-

tional Church on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room and sort, date and pre-bag donated groceries for free distribution the next day. Community Service hours can be provided for Quabbin Regional High School students who come to help.

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

**Barre Food Pantry volunteer opportunity.**

The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon to help staff the tables, help clients "shop" the food bank offerings and help carry groceries to clients' cars. Community Service hours can be provided for Quabbin Regional High School students who come to help.

For additional information call Sonja @ (978) 355-6921 or Chuck @ (978) 355-6463.

## **FROM THE DEACONS**

### **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

With winter coming people are in need of help to stay warm and stay safe. We as a caring church have helped many people in our community. The money we use is from our discretionary fund. At this time our fund is in need of replenishing. There are envelopes in the pews at church, or send in your donation to the church. Please consider giving what you can for this important mission. Thank you for any help you can give.

**If you know of anyone who would like a visit please let one of the deacons know, Marsha Bray, Janice Handrahan, Steve Morrall, Toni Brown and Jim Van Wert. Or leave a message on the church's answering machine, 978-355-4041 or call Marsha Bray, 978-355-2304**

**EXPENSES: 1/1/17 – 11/30/17**

**COLLECTORS REPORT**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Payroll              | 54,415.00          |
| Office Supplies      | 616.00             |
| Telephone & Internet | 2,348.00           |
| Postage              | 73.00              |
| Diaconate            | 0.00               |
| General Maintenance  | 4,095.00           |
| Stewardship          | 0.00               |
| Music                | 175.00             |
| Christian Ed         | 0.00               |
| Misc                 | 50.00              |
| Trash Pickup         | 113.00             |
| Sewer                | 500.00             |
| Water                | 250.00             |
| Heat & Gas           | 3,450.00           |
| Electricity          | 2,348.00           |
| Insurance            | 8,218.00           |
| Snow Removal         | 2,235.00           |
| Piano / Organ        | 355.00             |
| Alarm                | 480.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>\$79,721.00</b> |

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>     |                    |
| Loose             | 5,143.00           |
| Pledges – current | 51,609.00          |
| Pledges – future  | 1,740.00           |
| Other             | 4,605.00           |
| Investment Income | 15,492.00          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$78,589.00</b> |

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Loose                       | 290.00             |
| Current                     | 4113.00            |
| Missions                    | 265.00             |
| Coffee                      | 42.00              |
| UBS                         | 584.91             |
| Roof Repairs                | 175.00             |
| Lathrop QPW                 | 112.45             |
| Tuesday AA                  | 20.00              |
| Gillett Restaurant Equip.   | 2,150.00           |
| Discretionary Fund          | 721.50             |
| Food Pantry Insurance Rider | 156.00             |
| Pledge 2018                 | 520.00             |
| Floor Fund                  | 850.00             |
| Clover Hill Account         | 100.00             |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$10,099.96</b> |

## December 2017

*For unto us today a child is born in the City of David.....He is Christ the King.*

| Sun                                                                                                                                                       | Mon                                                                                                                           | Tue                                                                                                                                 | Wed                                                                                                                                        | Thu                                                                                  | Fri                                                             | Sat                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                      | <b>1</b>                                                        | <b>2</b><br><b>10-2 Church Fair</b><br>7:00 AA |
| <b>3</b><br>8:30 Choir warm-up<br>8:45 Bell Choir warm-up<br>9:30 Service/ Communion/<br>Sunday School                                                    | <b>4</b><br>6:00 Girl Scouts                                                                                                  | <b>5</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br>3:30 Music rehearsal<br><b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b><br><b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b><br>7:00 NA | <b>6</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br>4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac.<br><b>7:00 Church Committee</b><br><b>7:00 Deacons</b><br>7:00 Boy Scouts | <b>7</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br>6:30 Cub Scouts<br>7:00AA                           | <b>8</b>                                                        | <b>9</b><br>7:00 AA                            |
| <b>10</b><br>8:45 Bell Choir warm-up<br>9:30 Service/ Sunday School<br>1:00 Nutcracker Program                                                            | <b>11</b><br>6:00 Girl Scouts                                                                                                 | <b>12</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br>9:00 Food Pantry set-up<br>6:00 Food Pantry set-up<br><b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b><br>7:00 NA      | <b>13</b><br>9-1 Wendy's Hours<br><b>10-12 Food Pantry</b><br>4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac.<br>7:00 Boy Scouts                           | <b>14</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br><b>5:30 Friendship Community Supper</b><br>7:00 AA | <b>15</b><br>6-9 Girls Scouts crafts & party<br>7:00 Cub Scouts | <b>16</b><br>7:00 AA                           |
| <b>17</b><br>8:30 Choir warm-up<br>9:10 Sunday School Warm-up<br>9:30 Service/ Sunday school/                                                             | <b>18</b><br>6:00 Girl Scouts                                                                                                 | <b>19</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br><b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b><br>7:00 NA                                                            | <b>20</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br>4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac.<br>6:30 Cub Scouts<br>7:00 Boy Scouts                                    | <b>21</b><br>9-1 Wendy's hours<br>7:00AA                                             | <b>22</b>                                                       | <b>23</b><br>7:00 AA                           |
| <b>24</b><br><b>NO 9:30 Service</b><br><b>7:00 Family Service</b><br>10:00 Choir warm-up<br><b>11:00 Candle-light Service</b><br><br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> | <b>25</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS DAY!</b><br><br> | <b>26</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>7:00 NA                                                                                        | <b>27</b><br><b>Office Closed</b>                                                                                                          | <b>28</b><br>7:00AA                                                                  | <b>29</b>                                                       | <b>30</b><br>7:00 AA                           |
| <b>31</b><br>9:30 Service/ Hymn Sing<br><br><b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>                                                                                         |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                      |                                                                 |                                                |

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References December 2017 (Year B)

**Fri., Dec. 1**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 14:1-9  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

**Sat., Dec. 2**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Micah 2:1-13  
Matthew 24:15-31

**Sun., Dec. 3**

*First Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

**Mon., Dec. 4**

Psalm 79  
Micah 4:1-5  
Revelation 15:1-8

**Tues., Dec. 5**

Psalm 79  
Micah 4:6-13  
Revelation 18:1-10

**Wed., Dec. 6**

Psalm 79  
Micah 5:1-5a  
Luke 21:34-38

**Thurs., Dec. 7**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Hosea 6:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

**Fri., Dec. 8**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Acts 11:19-26

**Sat., Dec. 9**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Mark 11:27-33

**Sun., Dec. 10**

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 40:1-11.  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

**Mon., Dec. 11**

Psalm 27  
Isaiah 26:7-15  
Acts 2:37-42

**Tues., Dec. 12**

Psalm 27  
Isaiah 4:2-6  
Acts 11:1-18

**Wed., Dec. 13**

Psalm 27  
Malachi 2:10—3:1  
Luke 1:5-17

**Thurs., Dec. 14**

Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 2:1-5  
Philippians 3:7-11

**Fri., Dec. 15**

Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 3:2-6  
Philippians 3:12-16

**Sat., Dec. 16**

Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 3:13-19  
Matthew 21:28-32

**Sun., Dec. 17**

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Mon., Dec. 18**

Psalm 125  
1 Kings 18:1-18  
Ephesians 6:10-17

**Tues., Dec. 19**

Psalm 125  
2 Kings 2:9-22  
Acts 3:17—4:4

**Wed., Dec. 20**

Psalm 125  
Malachi 3:16—4:6  
Mark 9:9-13

**Thurs., Dec. 21**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
2 Samuel 6:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-4

**Fri., Dec. 22**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
2 Samuel 6:12-19  
Hebrews 1:5-14

**Sat., Dec. 23**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Judges 13:2-24  
John 7:40-52

**Sun., Dec. 24**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38  
*Christmas Eve*  
Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97  
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-17(8-20)

**Mon., Dec. 25**

*Christmas Day*  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Tues., Dec. 26**

Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15  
Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

**Wed., Dec. 27**

Psalm 148  
Exodus 33:18-23  
1 John 1:1-9

**Thurs., Dec. 28**

Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 31:15-17  
Matthew 2:13-18

**Fri., Dec. 29**

Psalm 148  
Isaiah 49:5-15  
Matthew 12:46-50

**Sat., Dec. 30**

Psalm 148  
Proverbs 9:1-12  
2 Peter 3:8-13

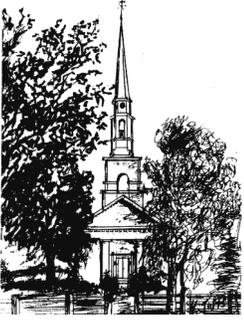
**Sun., Dec. 31**

*First Sunday after Christmas*  
Isaiah 61:10—62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40



**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.*

