

# Spire

*Barre Congregational Church, UCC*

Pastor – Margaret Keyser Organist – Deborah Page

Choir Director – Karla Peterson & Scott Bryant

Sexton – Clark Family Church Secretary – Wendy Isgro

Phone—978-355-4041

Email—barrechurch@gmail.com

website—www.barrechurch.com



2017

## **Dear God, make us artists of grace and mercy...**

The drive from Northampton to our church in Barre, is a beautiful drive all year long, from the Forsythias, cherry trees, and azaleas in full bloom during Spring time, the fullness of trees and shrubs, grasses and wild flowers hugging the road during hot summer months, and now...the beautiful, beautiful fall colors. Even winter has its own special charm. The forever changing landscapes must be an artist's dream throughout the year.

It is also an interesting and fun drive, especially during the last week or so, when I passed several homes, decorated with Halloween figures and creatures with fun and scary costumes. I would occasionally stop to take a photo, appreciating all the hard work families put in for our little ones. One main street on my drive back home last night, Halloween night, was filled with young and old, walking, wandering, stopping for candy, almost like a pilgrimage, I thought...

This drive to our church is also a time for me to reflect on the grace of God upon us and all the families as I'm driving through Hadley, Amherst, Ware and Hardwick. I am thinking of God's grace and mercy beyond these communities, and I am grateful for that. I am praying for their lives, and their struggles, even though I don't really know what they may be going through.

I feel inspired and warm inside, knowing I will soon be walking through the doors of a place of holiness, a place where God is. I feel blessed to work with our Office Manager, who has created a welcoming space for all who enter, and who shares with us her own story of faith on page 6&7. I feel inspired by our leaders, committed to the life and ministry of this church. This edition of our newsletter is filled with activities and upcoming events, and it speaks to the love and compassion there is for all in and outside this church community.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving later this month, let us thank God for our blessings, and ask God for mercy on the ones who suffer, near and far. Let us pray for one another, and let us be there for one another.

I am in awe of the Great Artist, whose hands and breath created all this, created us. I am praying to God to continue to bless us, and make us instruments of love and peace, to make us artists of grace and mercy.

God's richest blessings

*Pastor Margaret*

## Holiday Schedule

The deacons have been working on a schedule to have coverage for the next two months. Pastor Margaret Keyser will be traveling to her home in South Africa the month of December into January.

The Schedule is:

November 5--Pastor Margaret Keyser---  
Communion Sunday

November 12---Rev Charles Page

November 19---Pastor Margaret Key-  
ser Thanksgiving Sunday

November 26---Pastor Margaret Keyser Start of  
Advent

\*\*\*\*\*

December 3--- Pastor Margaret Keyser  
Communion Sunday

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

The Deacons would like to hear from you on how  
you think the schedule is providing  
Spiritual and Meaningful worship.

If you know of anyone who would like a visit from  
our Pastor or the deacons please let us  
know. Church #978-355-4041 or call me at #978  
-355-2304.

In Christ,  
*Marsha Bray*



## FROM THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

Advent Starts on  
Sunday , November 26th

The Flower Committee is looking for  
donations of poinsettias to decorate our beautiful  
Sanctuary.

Please leave a message on the church's an-  
swering machine, 978-355-4041 if you would like  
to donate.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL WREATH SALE

14 inch wreath—\$25.00

The Basic wreath is decorated with a  
bow, cones and berries

Specialty Wreaths are offered—choice of bow &  
decorations

To order call: Wendy Isgro –978-928-5180

The church office –978-355-4041

Or

Lisa Holloway - 978-355-0140

**We are always looking for new orders so  
please ask your friends, ask your relatives  
if they would like a wreath**



## **The Annual Church Fair**

**Saturday, December 2nd  
from 10-2.**

**Crafters, Baked Goods, Raffles,  
&  
Tea/Luncheon**

**The Church fair is sponsored by the  
Women's Fellowship but this is an ALL  
CHURCH EVENT.**

Without the help from the congregation. Wom-  
en's Fellowship cannot meet their pledge of  
\$3,000 to the church. The Fellowship will also  
help out with special projects of the church. It is  
necessary for the young the old and the middle  
age to help out with this fundraiser.

You can help by contributing Baked Goods,  
Candy, a Basket for the Basket Raffle, Gift  
Cards. We offer space for crafters, or if you  
have items to sell .

Help is needed the day of the fair, not only dur-  
ing the fair but help to clean-up after.

We also offer a fabulous tea and luncheon ,  
come eat and enjoy

**ROAST PORK DINNER**

Saturday, November 18, 2017

5:30 pm

\$12.00 Adults \$5.00 children over 12

Reservations please call

Lisa Holloway 978-355-0140

Or The church office 978-355-4041

**MASONIC THANKSGIVING DINNER**

When: Sunday November 19th

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: NOON

Cost: Free

The Masons of Mt. Zion lodge invite all Seniors to join them for a delicious Turkey Dinner.

**COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP SUPPER**

**Sloppy Joes**

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend and or family members.

Thursday, November 16, 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.

**FROM THE CHURCH COMMITTEE**

The Church committee is finalizing the 2018 budget that will be presented to the congregation in November. We are also preparing to winterize the church building. The outside water has been shut off. The batteries in the thermostats have been replaced and the set on timers. We will be looking at the batteries in the smoke detectors soon after the time change. The outside snow fence will be put up and the sand barrel filled, are next on the list.

We are meeting Wednesday Nov 1,2 017 with the Diaconate as a joint meeting to help each other with the end of the year Holiday seasons. A reminder to all that use the church, please turn off the lights and lock the doors.

If you have any concerns or suggestions please join us or leave a message at the church.

**CHURCH COMMITTEE SPECIAL  
THANK-YOU!**

The Church Committee would like to give a special "thank-you" for all the individuals and church organizations that have supported the church financially this year. Many budget items were not used because individuals paid those expenses for their committee. That is a great commitment to the church.

Bull God has kept our lawn in great order and is much appreciated.

Women's Fellowship has made a donation to the ware pump and roofing project.

The Supper Committee has paid for the trash pick-up for the church each month and have bought items needed for the kitchen.

CE Committee has saved on providing their own curriculum.

We are most blessed as a church that all are so dedicated our commitment in God's love.

Thank you also to the members who have worked so hard to keep everything functioning and positive for all.

Church Committee Secretary, *Sarah D*

**MEETING CALL**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

**Approximately 10:45**

**In the Sanctuary**

**To vote and discuss any important issues of the Barre Congregational Church**

**There will be NO Coffee Hour**

**Joining Together as Stewards of RENEWAL**  
**Stewardship Thank You**

The Stewardship Committee, Deb Page, Lisa Holloway, Wendy Isgro and Kevin Fogarty would like to thank you for coming full circle in your Spiritual Journey. Our prayer for you is that your journey here at the Barre Congregational Church will continue to deepen your faith. Let us not end this journey let it continue on.....

If you have not sent in your pledge card and or your time and talent card its not too late. You may receive a *Hello, how are you?* phone call.

**Thank you Sunday School Students!**  
**Crop Walk News**

Even though Rutland is no longer sponsoring the Crop Walk, our Sunday School children decided to continue doing the walk and donated the money raised to the Barre Food Pantry. They walked on Sunday, October 15th and collected \$430.00 Thank you to our Christian Ed Teachers who organized the walk and to everyone who donated money. A big THANK YOU to all the children who participated.

*Jennifer Peddle*, Missions Committee  
year

**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 Congregational 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, November 8, 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.

**Barre Food Pantry monthly distribution to clients.**

People in need of food assistance are welcome at the Barre Congregational Church on the common in Barre center from 10:00 am to noon for free monthly distribution of fresh, frozen and canned food made available through local and regional donations and state and federal government programs.

**Note:** The Barre Food Pantry would like to encourage clients to bring their reusable grocery tote bags with them when they come to pick up food at distribution.

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

**We Gather Together**

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, was at our side, All glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!  
Amen.

--Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn  
(A translation by Theodore Baker: 1851-1934)



On Sunday, October 15th the Stewardship Committee participated in the Sunday service as a member of the committee I was the one that pulled the short straw and was asked to speak. Here is my Journey of Spiritual Renewal.

### **Do You Have the Spiritual Gift in You?**

As we sat at our first stewardship meeting, Lisa, Deb, Pastor Margaret and I we kept throwing out ideas for this year's Stewardship Campaign. The word renewal kept coming up so it was agreed renewal should be part of this year's theme hence "Joining Together as Stewards of Renewal. The whole time I was sitting there thinking ok I'm asking new and present members of my church family to renew or start their subscription to the Barre Congregational Church.

How many times do you get a subscription card in the mail and you just put it in a pile of junk mail, just like the pledge card and the time and talent card you just received a few weeks ago. You say to yourself I'll fill it out later.

We know that we should fill the subscription card out so we can renew that subscription to that favorite magazine but also our pledge which not only represents our monetary gift but also represents our spiritual gift to the Barre Congregational Church, not only to the church but to ourselves. If you were in church last week you heard some members felt the spiritual calling to serve on a committee. I believe God has called us all to take this wild and crazy ride in the Journey of Spiritual Renewal in one form or another. God has given us all many gifts. Now it's the time to share these gifts with not only one another but with the church. Our time and talents can come in many forms- repair something that needs fixing in the church, help out at a community supper or a church supper, teach in the Sunday school program, volunteer to help the sexton clean these are only a few ways of using your time and talents. We can only do this as Joining Together as Stewards of Renewal. In 1 Timothy 4 verse 4 it says *for everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.* Like the pledge we make it too can be consecrated with thanksgiving by God and this church.

I have been blessed and grateful for the many gifts in my life, a wonderful family, a loving, caring supportive husband and some really close friends. I know I would not have had any of these things without faith in God and his teachings, which I have been given with the foundation of church. This foundation my parents made sure both my brother and I had not only as a child but as teens and beyond. My hope is that we can give this same foundation of not only faith, but of hope, peace and joy to our children, our children's children in many years to come. The Sunday school children or butterflies as Pastor Margaret would call them are on the common today building their foundation as they help the people of the Barre Food Pantry who are in need of food assistance.

Some foundations are solid, sometimes cracks are formed sometimes the cracks are small and then they become larger over time. Over the past few years my spiritual faith foundation has been cracked. If you asked me over a year ago if this foundation could be repaired, I believe I would have said no. My faith journey has taken several different turns, one crack seemed to take me on a journey of bitterness, betrayal, resentment and a lack of self-esteem, another crack was one of sadness and lack of hope, joy and peace. Stepping back, not being able to attend church services or able to do the job I loved without resentment or sadness I took a look at my foundation and decided this foundation needed to be fixed. I think we all at some time in our lives have to step back and reexam the foundation and the journey in life we are on. Does that foundation get repaired? Sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes when the cracks are repaired they come back stronger. Has my faith been repaired, yes to some extent it is being repaired, with the help from God and Pastor Margaret I no longer have the bitterness, the resentment and the hurt is slowly going away, and myself esteem is coming back, I would not have been able to get up in front of you and deliver this sermon a year ago. In our journey of renewal, in order to repair the foundation, we need to be grateful for those around us who have helped us with those

Next page

special talents who have helped us repair our own foundation. Repairs can be made not only through the word of the God but through music, helping those through volunteering, and giving of oneself to those in need. I am thankful for the support from my church family and God. Some of my church family have been patient, kind and shown their love and God has given me guidance in my Journey of Renewal of Faith. To those of you who have lost your faith in God and church I hope God will take you on our own Spiritual Journey of Renewal, as stated in 1 Corinthians 13:13 *and now these three remain faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* We all are looking to fix those cracks in our foundation with faith in God, hope in the future journey of renewal for the Barre Congregational Church and its members and through the love we have for God and one another.

Remember the pledge card....Now it's time to go to the junk mail and find that pledge card, and or time and talent card...Do You have the Spiritual gift in you? If you do maybe you should renew it....

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Payroll	48,826.00
Office Supplies	516.00
Telephone & Internet	2,133.00
Postage	73.00
Diaconate	0.00
General Maintenance	3,518.00
Stewardship	0.00
Music	175.00
Christian Ed	0.00
Misc	50.00
Trash Pickup	113.00
Sewer	350.00
Water	250.00
Heat & Gas	2,960.00
Electricity	2,174.00
Insurance	8,143.00
Snow Removal	2,235.00
Piano / Organ	355.00
Alarm	480.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72,351.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Loose	4,853.00
Pledges – current	47,496.00
Pledges – future	1,240.00
Other	4,387.00
Investment Income	14,899.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$72,875.00</b>

**Retained Earnings: \$524**

**Average Weekly Giving: \$1,190**

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

### COLLECTORS REPORT

Loose	252.00
Current	5,360.00
Missions	427.00
Coffee	43.00
UBS	934.40
Roof Repairs	325.00
Lathrop QPW	112.45
Tuesday AA	20.00
McManus Flowers	45.00
Discretionary Fund	12.00
Thursday AA	105.00
Pledge 2018	1,240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,832.85</b>

## November 2017

*Our hearts are filled with Thanksgiving: We praise You and worship You. We give You thanks today....*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. <b>7:00 Church Committee</b> <b>7:00 Deacons</b> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>2:00 Prayer Group</b> 7:00AA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 AA
<b>5</b> 9:30 Service/ Communion/ Sunday School	<b>6</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Food Pantry set-up 3:30 Music rehearsal <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 Barre Women's Club 7:00 NA	<b>8</b> 9-1 Wendy's Hours <b>10-12 Food Pantry</b> 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>2:00 Prayer Group</b> 7:00AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00 Service on the Common 7:00 AA  
<b>12</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday School	<b>13</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts <b>6:30 Women's Fellowship Fair work meeting</b>	<b>14</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 Music rehearsal <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>15</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>2:00 Prayer Group</b> <b>5:30 Friendship Community Supper</b> 7:00 AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>5:30 Roast Pork Dinner</b> 7:00 AA
<b>19</b> 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday school/ <b>Church Meeting-Sanctuary</b> 12:00 Masonic Thanksgiving Dinner	<b>20</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 Music rehearsal <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>22</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours	<b>23</b>  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>11:00 Wreath decorating Starts</b> 7:00 AA
<b>26</b> 8:30 Bell Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Pastor Margaret Keyset, preaching <b>10:45 Church Council Meeting</b> <b>1:00 Wreath Decorating</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 Music rehearsal <b>4:00 Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>7:00 Choir rehearsal</b> 7:00 NA	<b>29</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 Maplewinds Orchestra prac. 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>2:00 Prayer Group</b> 7:00AA		

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References November 2017 (Years A & B)

**Wed., Nov. 1**

Psalm 119:41-48  
Deuteronomy 26:16—27:7  
Matthew 19:16-22

**Thurs., Nov. 2**

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 1:1-11  
Romans 2:17-29

**Fri., Nov. 3**

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:1-14  
2 Peter 2:1-3

**Sat., Nov. 4**

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:15-24  
Matthew 23:13-28

**Sun., Nov. 5**

*Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

**Mon., Nov. 6**

Psalm 128  
Joshua 4:1-24  
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

**Tues., Nov. 7**

Psalm 128  
Joshua 6:1-16, 20  
Acts 13:1-12

**Wed., Nov. 8**

Psalm 128  
Joshua 10:12-14  
Matthew 15:1-9

**Thurs., Nov. 9**

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 5:10-12  
Revelation 8:6—9:12

**Fri., Nov. 10**

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 8:30-35  
Revelation 9:13-21

**Sat., Nov. 11**

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 20:1-9  
Matthew 24:1-14

**Sun., Nov. 12**

*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Mon., Nov. 13**

Psalm 78  
Joshua 24:25-33  
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

**Tues., Nov. 14**

Psalm 78  
Nehemiah 8:1-12  
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**Wed., Nov. 15**

Psalm 78  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Matthew 24:29-35

**Thurs., Nov. 16**

Psalm 123  
Judges 2:6-15  
Revelation 16:1-7

**Fri., Nov. 17**

Psalm 123  
Judges 2:16-23  
Revelation 16:8-21

**Sat., Nov. 18**

Psalm 123  
Judges 5:1-12  
Matthew 12:43-45

**Sun., Nov. 19**

*Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

**Mon., Nov. 20**

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Judges 4:8-24  
Romans 2:1-11

**Tues., Nov. 21**

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Exodus 2:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

**Wed., Nov. 22**

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Esther 7:1-10  
Matthew 24:45-51

**Thurs., Nov. 23**

*Thanksgiving*  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18  
Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 17:11-19

**Fri., Nov. 24**

Psalm 100  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Revelation 22:1-9

**Sat., Nov. 25**

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:25-31  
Matthew 12:46-50

**Sun., Nov. 26**

*Reign of Christ*  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Mon., Nov. 27**

Psalm 28  
Numbers 27:15-23  
2 Timothy 2:8-13

**Tues., Nov. 28**

Psalm 28  
Zechariah 11:4-17  
Revelation 19:1-9

**Wed., Nov. 29**

Psalm 28  
Jeremiah 31:10-14  
John 5:19-40

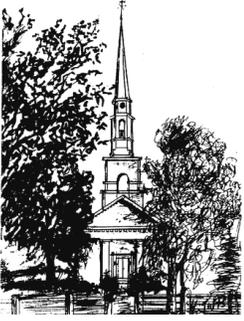
**Thurs., Nov. 30**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 13:1-9  
Revelation 14:6-13



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CONFERENCE

*Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings*, copyright © 2005 Consultation on Common Texts.  
[commontexts.org](http://commontexts.org). Used by permission. This resource may be reproduced by congregations for their own worship and educational activities. Provided by the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ – made possible by Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and Fellowship Dues.



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.*