

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

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2016

The Canvas of Autumn Taken from the Christian Broadcast Network

Winter, spring, summer, and fall are God’s seasons. I have always been a big fan of summer and spring and not too fond of fall and winter. But lately I have changed. I think it is something about those leaves of red, orange, yellow, and burgundy that fall from the trees. I feel as if I have noticed them for the very first time.

I like taking a ride and watching people setting out pumpkins in the yard with hay bales and planting mums in the yard. I am looking forward to getting some lavender and yellow mums myself for my yard and a few pumpkins.

The other day, one of my friends and I went to visit a friend who has been ill, and in her neighborhood, we noticed many yards decorated for fall. I don’t remember seeing this too much in the past. Have I missed this season all these years, or is it just that as I get older I appreciate God’s world just a little more?

The latter is what I concluded. The Bible says, “This is day that the Lord hath made, and I will rejoice in it.” Each day He has given me beauty to enjoy, so I think I should sit back and take in this glorious creation.

God is the best artist in the world, for only He can create such different themes. We see many artists that try to capture the seasons on their canvases by painting what they see around them, and they do a wonderful job. However, neither picture nor paint could ever replace the real thing splashed across the sky and spilled over the earth like the Master’s display of His finest artwork. God’s creativity is unmatched, for every day is different, just like every snowflake in winter.

When people say there is no God, I know they do not see with eyes like mine. They must see a plain, white canvas or a black drop cloth and not the blue skies that fade into light pink in the evening. Nor do they see the flowers that no paint on any artist’s palate could attempt to match or the trees that were each given a certain color leaf to change into when autumn arrives. ‘No God,’ they say. It is just that they do not know the Master of the seasons, the One who has created such magnificent displays of perfect art.

Instead of always looking forward to the summer and springtime, I have decided to enjoy the Master’s autumn masterpiece for the rest of my life.

Psalm 147 4, 8, 16-18 (NIV)

⁴ He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

⁸ He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

¹⁶ He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?

¹⁸ He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

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Music Notes.....

Choir

Choir rehearsals have begun. We meet on Tuesdays at 7pm in the sanctuary. Come join the fellowship.

Deb, Karla & Scott

Bell Choir

We're ringing those bells starting September 6th at 6PM in the Upper Room. No music reading talent is required. If you can follow a pointer, you're all set!

Deb & Toni



The

Barre Women's Club will hold a Flea Market on the Barre Common in September 10th 10-2

Please mark a price on each item and bring it to the common at 8:00 am the morning of the Flea Market.

Please no clothes, no shoes, no stuffed animals, no throw away items.

Proceeds will go toward renovations of the first floor bathrooms.

Any questions please call Shirley Lewis, 978-355-9019.

Women's Fellowship

Mark your calendars:

Potluck Dinner

Monday, October 3, 2016

6:00 p.m.

This will be a get together to see what direction you would like to see Women's Fellowship take. As of now there is no president or co-presidents.

Church Committee

The Church Committee has updated the "Rules for Church Usage" forms, the Sexton's job description, the Church Secretary's job description, and the Treasurer's job description. Copies will be available at the next Church Council meeting for those interested.

An outside auditor has begun to review our financial records. A report will be written for the church when the audit is complete.

The problem with the bathrooms in Fellowship Hall has been resolved. We have been advised by the plumber to use low grade toilet paper to prevent future problems. The toilet paper has

been replaced. We are sorry for this, but please do not replace with or donate better quality paper to avoid future problems. Thanks for your cooperation.

The Church Committee will begin work on the 2017 budget at our next meeting on September 14th. Please let Lisa Holloway know if your committee budget needs to be changed for the upcoming year.

Kayley Clark held a Pokémon Go! night in Fellowship Hall on August 19th. She raised approximately \$52.00 for our operating costs and collected a whole basket of food for the Food Pantry. Our doors were open to young adults and families who had a fun evening! Thanks, Kayley.

From the Supper Committee

Mark your Calendars for the Fall

We would like to give you all to mark your calendars dates have been set-up through the fall:

Saturday, September 24th 5:30 pm —
Chicken Barbecue

Saturday, October 22nd 5:30 pm—
Turkey dinner and entertainment following the dinner. Ted Reinsten from Chronicle, channel 5 WCVB will be here to give a presentation about his new book. *Wicked Pissed New England's Most Famous Feuds.*

Saturday, November 12th 5:30 pm—
Roast Pork Dinner

The Supper Committee is looking for help if you are interested please call Wendy, 978-928-5180 or Beth, 978-355-2796

Barre Food Pantry

The Food Pantry could use the following:

- ◆ canned peas
- ◆ canned green beans
- ◆ canned carrots
- ◆ diced tomatoes
- ◆ beef stew
- ◆ canned pasta with meat sauce
- ◆ fruit juices are always welcome

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.

Wednesday, September 14th, 2016

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.

Note: We no longer need donations of egg cartons. We have so many at this time that storage is a challenge. When more are needed in the future, we will post a request in our calendar notice.

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.

Community Friendship Suppers

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and or family members.

The Community Friendship Suppers are a free supper, our menu changes every month.

Serving time is from 5:30 pm—6:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month,

A free will offering may be given. The offering is used by the mission Committee of our church to help those in need in our community and far away. **Next supper is September 15th.**

Message From Margaret Keyser

Please mark your calendar! The congregation is invited to a follow-up session with Margaret Keyser on **September 11, 2016 after the worship service.** Remember you don't have to have attended any of the earlier sessions to attend.

A message from Margaret Keyser:
During the Spring we came together as members of the congregation to share with one another difficult experiences, feelings and opinions about what transpired last year. For those who attended the meetings, it helped them see and understand the others' point of view. We created a space where members could express themselves openly and honestly. This was not easy, but the work we did was important to move forward with one another. There was deep sadness about the situation, and the fact that not everyone was part of these conversations. However, there was a deep commitment to work together. We have also done work with the Deacons and the Church Committee, who have committed themselves to work together and make good recommendations on a number of key issues affecting the congregation. This was an important outcome for the church. There are clearly some areas that need attention still. This meeting on **September 11** will help the congregation with the following:

1. Improve and solidify communication skills on a personal level, as well as among various committees.
 2. Team and trust building exercises for the way forward.
 3. Help the congregation find consensus on important issues as you transition into an interim period with a designated interim pastor
- Everyone is invited. Everyone's voice is needed. This meeting is important for the way forward I look forward to work with you all.
Peace and blessings
Margaret Keyser

Collector's Report

Loose	61.00
Current	4,854.00
Missions	329.00
Sexton Payback	100..00
Community supper	45.00
Sat AA	100.00
Piano	373.00
Thursday NA	50..00
Pokémon	52.00
Total	5,964.00

Be Cheerful

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, & whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2Corinthians 9:6-8

Lately, the devotionals I read have had a lot to say about being positive. Harder yet is staying positive. I find it so easy to lapse into negative talk. It's so easy to make it a bigger problem than it is. Plus, so many other people will fall right into the sink hole with me, covering all of us in negativity.

Why does the negative hold more interest than the positive? There is more good (positive) going on in our world than bad (negative), yet that's not what we hear in the news or maybe show in our lives.

This month, you'll receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee. Please don't look upon it as negative. Until that letter comes, let's practice being positive.

Even if any of us think, "Oh, that's not good," find the positive in it. Stewardship is the giving of our time, talent & treasure. Whatever you feel you're able to do, do so with a smile & be positive. And always, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses: 1/1/16-8/31/16

Payroll	42,871.00
Office Supplies	1,774.00
Telephone & Internet	1,705.00
Equipment Maintenance	00
Diaconate	104.00
General Maintenance	4,536.00
Christian Ed.	107.00
Miscellaneous	688.00
Flowers	.00
Water & Sewer	480.00
Heat & Gas	2,538.00
Insurance	7,955.00
Electricity	2,241.00
Snow Removal	840.00
Piano/Organ	1,495.00
Alarm	748.00
Total	\$68,082.00

Income	
Loose	2,534.00
Pledges	45,962.00
Other***	8,948.00
Investment Interest	16,865.00.
Total	\$74,309.00
****Women's Fellowship donated \$3,000.	

Transferred from savings for ordinary expenses:
\$3,617.00

Operating Surplus \$6,227

Beginning balance in checkbook: \$2,504.48

September 2016

Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Psalm 90:17

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-1 Wendy's hours	2	3 7:00 AA
4 9:30 Ser- vice/ Com- munion	5 Labor Day	6 Wendy off 3:30 –5:00 Mu- sic Rehearsal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Re- hearsal 7:00 NA	7 Wendy Off 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	9	10 10-2 Flea Mar- ket on the Common 7:00 AA
11 9:30 Service 11:00 Meet- ing with Margaret Keyser	12	13 Wendy Off 3:30 –5:00 Mu- sic Rehearsal 9:00 Food Pan- try set-up 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Food Pan- try set-up 7:00 Choir Re- hearsal 7:00 NA	14 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pantry 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Committee	15 9-1 Wendy's hours 5:30 Com- munity Friendship Supper 7:00 AA	16	17 7:00 AA
18 9:30 Service	19 6-9 Girl Scouts	20 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 –5:00 Mu- sic Rehearsal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Re- hearsal 7:00 NA	21 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	23	24 5:30 Chicken Barbecue Church Sup- per 7:00 AA
25 9:30 Service 11:00 Church Council	26 6-9 Girl Scouts	27 9-1 Wendy's hours 3:30 –5:00 Mu- sic Rehearsal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Re- hearsal 7:00 NA	28 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	30	

Daily Lectionary Scripture References September 2016 (Year C)

Thurs., Sept. 1

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 15:10-21
Philippians 2:25-30

Fri., Sept. 2

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 16:14—17:4
Colossians 4:7-17

Sat., Sept. 3

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 17:14-27
Matthew 10:34-42

Sun., Sept. 4

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Mon., Sept. 5

Psalm 2
Jeremiah 18:12-23
1 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Tues., Sept. 6

Psalm 2
Jeremiah 19:1-15
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Wed., Sept. 7

Psalm 2
Jeremiah 20:1-18
Luke 18:18-30

Thurs., Sept. 8

Psalm 14
Jeremiah 13:20-27
1 Timothy 1:1-11

Fri., Sept. 9

Psalm 14
Jeremiah 4:1-10
2 Peter 2:1-10a

Sat., Sept. 10

Psalm 14
Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31
John 10:11-21

Sun., Sept. 11

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Mon., Sept. 12

Psalm 94
Jeremiah 5:1-17
1 Timothy 1:18-20

Tues., Sept. 13

Psalm 94
Jeremiah 5:18-31
2 Peter 3:8-13

Wed., Sept. 14

Psalm 94
Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22
Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

Thurs., Sept. 15

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 12:14—13:11
Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Sept. 16

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:1-13
Romans 8:31-39

Sat., Sept. 17

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11
Mark 12:41-44

Sun., Sept. 18

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 8:18—9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Mon., Sept. 19

Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 9:12-26
Acts 4:1-12

Tues., Sept. 20

Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 10:1-16
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Wed., Sept. 21

Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 10:17-25
Luke 20:45—21:4

Thurs., Sept. 22

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 23:9-22
2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Fri., Sept. 23

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 23:23-32
Ephesians 2:1-10

Sat., Sept. 24

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 24:1-10
Luke 9:43b-48

Sun., Sept. 25

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Mon., Sept. 26

Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 32:16-35
Revelation 3:14-22

Tues., Sept. 27

Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 32:36-44
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 28

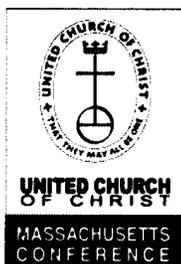
Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 33:1-13
Matthew 19:16-22

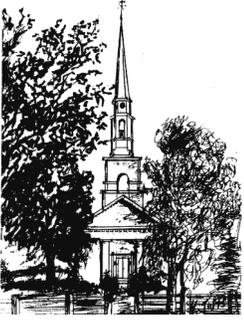
Thurs., Sept. 29

Lamentations 3:19-26
Jeremiah 52:1-11
Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Sept. 30

Lamentations 3:19-26
Jeremiah 52:12-30
Revelation 2:12-29





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.