

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor – Margaret Keyser

Organist – Deborah Page

Choir Director – Karla Peterson

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A Message from Pastor Margaret...

Many Blessings to You for 2024!

Dear Members of Barre Congregational Church and all our Friends,

Grace and peace to you! I am sending you many blessings from my homeland, South Africa, where my husband and I spent the last number of weeks with my 93-year-old mother, my siblings, and their families. It has been good, and maybe a bit too hot, but we are coping in our very comfortable little cottage with a mobile air conditioner we purchased last year. Wellington is one of the hottest towns in the Western Cape region, but also one of the most beautiful places in the Cape Winelands, about an hour away from the City of Cape Town, and surrounded by majestic mountain ranges, beautiful rivers running through the farmlands where the growth of our vineyards are complimented by olive trees, also a growing industry in South Africa. It is indeed a place to find some rest and relaxation with loved ones.

Our time here is also important to reconnect with my family and friends. We are all changing, we realize, and I am thinking of our young people maturing and reaching their dreams, among them my nephew, Werner who completed his medical studies and just started as a first-year doctor in a hospital in the Eastern part of the country. They all are so talented, and joyful and we are so proud of them, and for me it is especially important to see them once a year to hear their stories. My mother has changed too. She needs more care now, and it took me some time to adjust to this new reality, seeing her less mobile, but still quite lively once we get started on some subjects. As siblings with our extended families, our own lives have changed with many more responsibilities and our own needs.

While enjoying time with my loved ones, I am also thinking of all of you in Barre. I am thinking about you spending time with your loved ones, and doing the things you love. Or maybe some of you did not have the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Maybe you have been sick or have been facing other challenges. Through this all, I am thinking of you, and it brings me closer to you, and I look forward to seeing you and being with you.

As we all face this new year ahead, I pray that God will take care of us, bless us with good health, and bless our church with many good things ahead.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Margaret Keyser

**Those in the Nursing Homes, Asst. Living, Shut-ins, & those living far from us
They would love to receive a visit, a note, a card, or a call.....**

***Please let us know if there is anyone you know of that needs a visit, a call or our prayers! Please call
the church office, 978-355-4041 or email, barrechurch@gmail.com.***

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**OUR PRAYERS FOR THE
COMMUNITY**

- Our Police, Fire & Emergency Personnel
- The Barre Food Pantry
- The Drug Response Coalition
- AA Groups
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Students, parents and caregivers of the Quabbin School District

MILITARY SERVICE

Those Friends and Members who serve our Community

*“God has created each of us,
calls us by a special name,
and says to us:
You are precious in my eyes.”*

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

In December 2023, members of Missions Committee organized the collection and distribution of gifts for 16 children submitted by Ruggles Lane School. Donated books, hats, mittens, socks, scarves and gloves were also donated for families in need.

The Community Friendship Supper served 62 meals of shepherd's pie, salad, bread, juice and desert. The juices were donated by the Boy Scout troop that assists in the CFS meals most months.

The meal for the January CFS will be spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and desert.

Members discussed the donation of funds to Abby's House(\$500), Dismas Farm(\$500) and Heiffer International (\$500).

COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP DRIVE—THRU SUPPER

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Salad, bread & desert

Thursday, January 18, 2023

Pick-up 5:30 pm—6:30 pm

This is the same day as the Food Pantry Distribution. Please don't forget the Food Pantry, the Pantry always could use donations of canned items, personal care items, pasta, pasta sauce.

DEACONS

The Advent season of 2023 saw some new experiences to enrich the services.

1. The newly formed Praise Band performed December 10th for the second Sunday of one of the most holy seasons of the year.
2. Pastor Margaret performed the service, via Zoom, from South Africa. Kevin Fogarty, with assistance from members of the Music Committee, formed the connections with the equipment needed. The children were able to participate in the Children's sermon while interacting with Pastor Margaret.
3. December 24th was an active day with three services being performed by Reverend Charlie Page, Sue Musnicki, students of Christian Ed and the many talented musicians and vocalist Eliza Brown. Thank you to all who participated in the services!

What a blessing to share such spiritual experiences with the members of the church and community.

CHOIR

There's Always Room For More

The choir invites you to come and enjoy song and fellowship with them. Tuesday nights at 7PM in the sanctuary. We sing on 2 Sundays a month. Guaranteed, you will have a good time. Questions? See Deb, Karla or any choir member

CALL TO THE BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

**Monday, January 22, 2024
7:00 pm In Fellowship Hall**

Agenda: To Review the Annual report, to vote on Committees for the upcoming year, and to hear and vote on any other church business.

**THANK YOU FROM
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

As chairperson for the Holiday Fair, I wish to thank each and every person that organized, cooked, shopped and participated in this event. Without each of you, the fair would not be the success that it is.

Thank you to Wendy Isgro, Lisa Holloway, Beth Richard and all who work diligently on the wreath sales as part of this fundraising effort.

Sincerely, *Janice Handrahan*

STEWARDSHIP

WHAT CAN I GIVE?

The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. ~2 Corinthians 12:9

Christmas can make some people feel depressed. During this season, Christians do many things to make life brighter for others. Some of us feel we can't do due to age or physical activity.

Listen to the song, "The Little Drummer Boy." It can help to change the focus from what we *can't do* to what we *can do*. The lyrics of the song explain that the little drummer boy couldn't buy a gift or do something brave for the Christ child, so he didn't think he had anything to offer. But then he realized one thing he *could* do: play a song for Jesus.

So let's quit thinking about what we can't do and start concentrating on what we can do. We can pray; we can be cheerful and friendly to those we meet outside our homes; we can celebrate Jesus' birth at church. Sometimes, God helps us to do things we don't realize we can. And God will honor even seemingly small actions if they are done to glorify God. So like the little drummer boy who played his very best for Jesus, we can do our best and honor God with our service.

(Taken from The Upper Room by Ken Claar

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 10:30 am.

The committee will be going over committee members and the officers of the church for 2024.

If you are interested in being member of a committee or would like to change the committee you are on presently, please let Kevin Fogarty, Lisa Holloway or Wendy Isgro know.

You should be a member of the church to go on the following committees: Church Committee, Deacons, and Pastor Parish Relations.

You do not have to be a member of the church to go on the following committee:

Christian Education, Flower Committee, Missions Committee, Music Committee, Nominating Committee, Stewardship Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School continues to meet. Youth Group will be meeting on January 7th and 21st during Sunday School. For the month of January, the Youth Group asks that people bring in non-perishable food items as well as self-care items for the food pantry.

PLEDGING & DONATIONS

You may pay your pledges or make a donation by Visiting: www.barrechurch by to enter your PayPal donation or you may mail it directly to:

Barre Congregational Church
P.O. Box 936, Barre, MA 01005

JANUARY 2024

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

~ Ephesians 4:32

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	3 9-12 Wendy work at home	4 9-12 Wendy in office Deacon's Meeting	5	6 7:00 AA
7 Baptism of the Lord/ Communion 9:30 Service/Rev. Charlie Page preach- ing/Communion/ Sunday School/ Youth Group	8 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	9 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	10 9-12 Wendy work at home 10:30 Nomi- nating Meeting 9-12 Food Pantry Dis- tribution 7:00 Church Committee	11 9-12 Wendy in office	12	13 7:00 AA
14 Second Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 Choir warm- up 9:30 Service/Pastor Margaret preaching/ Sunday School 11:00 Church Council	15 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	16 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	17 9-12 Wendy work at home	18 9-12 Wendy in office 5-7 Food Pan- try Distribu- tion 5:30-6:30 Community Friendship Supper Drive Thru	19	20 7:00 AA
21 Third Sunday Of Epiphany 9:30 Service/ Pastor Margaret preaching/ Sunday School	22 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Annual Meeting of the Church	23 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	24 9-12 Wendy work at home	25 9-12 Wendy in office 11:00 Pastor Margaret of- fice	26	27 7:00 AA
28 Fourth Sunday Of Epiphany 8:30 Choir warm- up 9:30 Service/ Rev. Charlie Page, preach- ing/Sunday School	29 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	30 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	31 9-12 Wendy work at home			

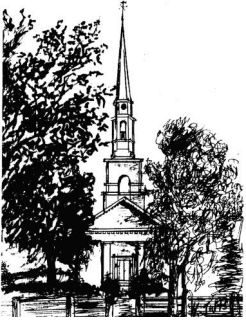
Daily Lectionary Scripture References—January 2024

Monday, January 1, 2024	New Year's Day —Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday, January 2, 2024:	Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18
Wednesday, January 3, 2024:	Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:20-33; James 4:1-10
Thursday, January 4, 2024:	Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17
Friday, January 5, 2024:	Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31
Saturday, January 6, 2024:	Epiphany of the Lord —Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 7, 2024:	Baptism of the Lord —Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
Monday, January 8, 2024:	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12
Tuesday, January 9, 2024:	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16
Wednesday, January 10, 2024:	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34
Thursday, January 11, 2024:	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11
Friday, January 12, 2024:	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25
Saturday, January 13, 2024:	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13
Sunday, January 14, 2024:	Second Sunday after the Epiphany —1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 ; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
Monday, January 15, 2024:	Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
Tuesday, January 16, 2024:	Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 15:10-31; Acts 5:1-11
Wednesday, January 17, 2024:	Psalm 86; Genesis 16:1-14; Luke 18:15-17
Thursday, January 18, 2024:	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Revelation 18:11-20
Friday, January 19, 2024:	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:7-13; 2 Peter 3:1-7
Saturday, January 20, 2024:	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Luke 10:13-16
Sunday, January 21, 2024:	Third Sunday after the Epiphany —Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Monday, January 22, 2024:	Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Tuesday, January 23, 2024:	Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25-46:7; Acts 5:33-42
Wednesday, January 24, 2024:	Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a
Thursday, January 25, 2024:	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18
Friday, January 26, 2024:	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17
Saturday, January 27, 2024:	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1
Sunday, January 28, 2024:	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany —Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
Monday, January 29, 2024:	Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26
Tuesday, January 30, 2024:	Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Wednesday, January 31, 2024:	Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20

Baptism and Communion

Q V H Z Q A O E M W N R P R L L Q
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L M C B C R Z L D Q J E S U S C W

GOD	BAPTISMAL	FELLOWSHIP	REPENT
SALVATION	PRAYER	JESUS	REMBERANCE
BREAD	CUP	FORGIVEN	SIN
WATER	COMMUNION	BAPTISM	



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