

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

Pastor – Margaret Keyser

Organist – Deborah Page

Choir Director – Karla Peterson

Sexton – Ann Clark

Office Manager – Wendy Isgro

Phone –978-355-4041

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2024

A Message from Pastor Margaret...

Prayer, the wonderful gift from God to us!

It is quite frightening to think how quickly one's circumstances can change from having a good life with a few challenges, to the rapid change in our health, our work, finances, and other personal or professional issues. We all are vulnerable to such unexpected changes in our lives, and it is not easy when we realize that we are not in control anymore, or the challenges we face are difficult to manage, and life is not the same anymore. Many of us have stories to tell about events that occurred to us, and how we sometimes did not know where to turn.

Given all these challenges we may be facing, I am reminded of the importance of prayer as a means of finding help and hope when things are difficult. Prayer is the gift we must always cherish because it is a gift from God to us. Prayer is a way of being in conversation with God, who is our Greatest listener and our helper. We are reminded by many of the psalms, such as Psalm 121, which states that our help comes from the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth. To pray means to express our joys and our concerns to God. It does not mean that we need to be so perfectly prepared with what we want God to know. God knows us so well, all our imperfections and all those moments when we do not know what to say. Those are exactly the moments when we must show our weaknesses and failures, and our inability to be in control of our lives, our thoughts, how we speak and more. To pray means we show God our situation as it is at a given moment in time, and we tell God our honest feelings about it, our desires, and our hopes.

It is possible to say that I do not know how to pray, or God does not have time for my situation and my desires. God is too busy. I am not good enough for God to even have a minute to spare. The opposite is quite true, though, that God is available, and God wants us to tell our stories, because that shows that we lean on the One who loves us and who wants to assist in our various situations. It is also possible to be too reliant on our own resources and abilities to solve our problems and to go through life oblivious to how all of what we have can come to an end.

Being in conversation with God is the greatest gift we as Christians have, because it opens up the world where God is. It gives us an insight into how God operates, not entirely, but we see through a veil God's love and intentions for humanity. God's world is all about love and compassion and care and light, which are the things we need, but not always realize when we go through difficulties. We sometimes become accustomed to the challenges that we do not know that our answers and our joy may just come from being in conversation with God. Occasionally, we enjoy only the earthly blisses, without realizing the eternal joy that comes from God, the One who understands and shows up in ways so awesome that we never imagined could happen.

Prayer is that window to the continuous presence of the Almighty. Prayer and spending a bit more time reading through the Psalms, or the Gospels, or the Epistles will give us more and more of that inner peace and joy we all need these days. May this Lenten time be a time where we are intentional in making time for God and with God. It is such an amazing gift to us. Just do it! Let's all do it and experience God's presence and God's love in all circumstances.

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.”*

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

Save the Date

Sunday, May 5, 2024
10:00 am

Pastor Margaret Keyser



Installation as Settled Pastor

Barre Congregational Church
30 Park Street, Barre, MA

RSVP by April 30, 2024
barrechurch@gmail.com or 978-355-4041

(Lunch will be served after the service)



INSTALLATION OF PASTOR MARGARET

On May 21, 2023, the Barre Congregational Church voted Pastor Margaret Keyser in as its settled pastor, after Pastor Margaret has served the congregation in an interim capacity since June 2017. Through much prayer and in conversation with the Diaconate, Pastor Margaret is now ready for the process of installation at our church, which will take place on May 5th, 2024.

The installation of a settled pastor is a moment in the life of the church where both pastor and congregation make a covenant with each other, to be in a more permanent relationship, rather than an interim one.

This process of installation is deeply and profoundly sacred, where the pastor and the congregation commit themselves to serve God in humility and in love. We believe that God, through the Son and the Holy Spirit is with us and will guide and strengthen us as we grow together as a congregation here in Barre.

Pastor Margaret Keyser

LENT & EASTER SERVICE

Sunday Services - March 3, 10, & 17 - 9:30 AM

Palm Sunday - March 24 - 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday Service - March 28 - 7:00 PM

*A Service of Scripture, Music &
Extinguishing Candles*

Easter Sunday - March 31 - 9:30 AM

He Has Risen!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Please join us during the Lenten Season! Toni Brown and Kendra King will be with our younger children and Ann Clark and Charlie Page will meet with the Youth. Youth Group will meet March 3rd and 17th. There will be some surprises this month as well as an Easter egg hunt. Come take part!

Deb Page



FLOWER COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in providing flowers or plants for a Sunday service, please reach out



Please watch for notices about Easter Plants during the coming weeks. Easter is March 31, 2024.

Thanks,
Ann Clark, Beth Richard,

Sue Musnicki

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

LUNCHEON & MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2024

Noon

Bring a lunch!

Let us share friendship and fellowship!!!

Ladies, It is time to get together,
Spring has Sprung!!!!

CHOIR

The timing is just right to join the choir for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter! We meet on Tuesdays at 7pm in the sanctuary. Come and join us for a short commitment and great fellowship.

Deb and Karla

COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP

DRIVE—THRU SUPPER

Hot Turkey Sandwich

Stuffing, beverage, & dessert

Thursday, March 21, 2024

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 10, 2024

11:00 AM

In Fellowship Hall

Please let Sue Musnicki or Wendy Isgro who the Chair Person is for your committee.

So email reminders can be sent out each month to your committee representative.

Drive Thru Church Dinner

Roast Pork Dinner

Vegetables, Potato, Salad & Dessert

Saturday, March 9, 2024

\$14.00 for Adults \$5.00 for Children

For reservations, please call Lisa Holloway or the church office 978-355-4041

MARCH 2024



"A flower blossoms for its own joy." ~ Oscar Wilde

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:00 AA
3 Third Sunday of Lent/ Communion 9:30 Pastor Margaret preaching/ Communion/Sunday School/Youth Group	4 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	5 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	6 9-12 Wendy work at home	7 9-12 Wendy in office 11:00 Pastor Margaret Office 7:00 Deacons Meeting	8	9 5:00 Drive Thru Church Supper 7:00 AA
10 Fourth Sunday of Lent 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/Rev. Charlie Page, preaching/Sunday School 11:00 Church Council Daylight Savings	11 Noon— Women's Fellowship Lunch & Meeting 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	12 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	13 9-12 Wendy work at home 9-12 Food Pantry Distribution 7:00 Church Committee	14 9-12 Wendy in office	15	16 7:00 AA
17 Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:30 Service/ Pastor Margaret , preaching/ Sunday School St Patrick's Day	18 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	19 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice Spring Begins	20 9-12 Wendy work at home	21 9-12 Wendy in office 11:00 Pastor Margaret office 5-7 Food Pantry Distribution 5:30-6:30 Community Friendship Supper Drive Thru	22	23 7:00 AA
24 Palm Sunday 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Pastor Margaret, preaching/ Sunday School	25 5:30-6:30 Girl Scouts	26 9-12 Wendy work at home 7-8 Choir Practice	27 9-12 Wendy work at home	28 9-12 Wendy in office 11:00 Pastor Margaret office 6:00Choir warm-up 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Pastor Margaret, preaching/ NO Sunday School						

Daily Lectionary Scripture References—March 2024

Friday, March 1, 2024	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
Saturday, March 2, 2024	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8
Sunday, March 3, 2024	Third Sunday in Lent- Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19 ; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
Monday, March 4, 2024	Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
Tuesday, March 5, 2024	Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28
Wednesday, March 6, 2024	Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19
Thursday, March 7, 2024	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6
Friday, March 8, 2024	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14
Saturday, March 9, 2024	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13
Sunday, March 10, 2024	Fourth Sunday in Lent —Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; • Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
Monday, March 11, 2024	Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6
Tuesday, March 12, 2024	Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20
Thursday, March 14, 2024	Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13
Friday, March 15, 2024	Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4
Saturday, March 16, 2024	Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11
Sunday, March 17, 2024	Fifth Sunday in Lent- Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 <i>or</i> Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10 ; John 12:20-33
Monday, March 18, 2024	Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Tuesday, March 19, 2024	Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24
Wednesday, March 20, 2024	Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50
Thursday, March 21, 2024	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11
Friday, March 22, 2024:	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18
Saturday, March 23, 2024	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
Sunday, March 24, 2024	Palm Sunday - Psalm 118:1-2,19-29; Mark 11:1-11 <i>or</i> John 12:12-16 <i>or</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 <i>or</i> Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
Monday, March 25, 2024	Monday of Holy Week- Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
Tuesday, March 26, 2024	Tuesday of Holy Week- Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday, March 27, 2024	Wednesday of Holy Week- Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
Thursday, March 28, 2024	Maundy Thursday- Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday, March 29, 2024	Good Friday- Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 <i>or</i> Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
Saturday, March 30, 2024	Holy Saturday- Job 14:1-14 <i>or</i> Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 <i>or</i> John 19:38-42
Sunday, March 31, 2024	Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord- Acts 10:34-43 <i>or</i> Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 <i>or</i> Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 <i>or</i> Mark 16:1-8

Easter Word Search



Angel

Cross

Crown of Thorns

Easter

Empty Tomb

Good Friday

Holy

Hope

Jesus

King

Love

Mary

Messiah

Resurrection

Risen

Sacrifice

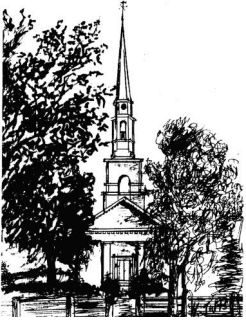
Salvation

Sunday

Savior

Third Day





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