

# 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

Email – barrechurch@gmail.com /Website – barrechurch.com



# 2024

### ***A Message from Pastor Margaret...***

#### ***Our Church and Our World need us all, to bring New Life and New Beginnings...***

When we look around, after a long winter, we once again see new life emerging from the ground, growing on the shrubs and trees, indicating a new season of beauty, new beginnings, and things to look forward to. The birds are happy and active, scratching for seeds in the ground, and the crocuses have been cheering the soul as they traversed the icy soil after a barren winter. Daffodils are showing off their beauty in bright colors, and the buds on the fig tree in our dining room began to shed the skin around them, revealing the beautiful and shapely leaves that are pleasing to the eye. This life and this universe are extraordinary gifts from God, to cherish and appreciate, and to care for.

Nature has a way of reminding us of how good life can be, and how we can enjoy it, and live from it. It shows us its beauty, its strength, and sometimes its unpredictability, but it is an example of being and creating and growing and living, and then it sleeps or dies, and then it returns. Nature also shows us how it can stand together in unity. We see flocks of birds, of sheep, swarms of bees, colonies of ants, herds of cattle, and more. These animals are huddling together in unity and strength to protect and increase their chances of survival, and they do it in a visible way out in the fields, in the sky, on the ground and in their nests. Then there are times when it is necessary to kill a prey to survive, and to remain alive.

As I am reflecting on this new life in nature, I have seen the same new life in our church during the last year. I have seen how our committees and volunteers are actively working together to fulfill the mission of our congregation in various ways, from making our worship services a wonderful and joyful experience through word and song, giving our children a wonderful experience during church and Sunday School, serving the community through our community suppers once a month, and then there are those who take care of our church and finances, and we cannot thank them enough for their diligence in this regard. Please take your time to go through the pages of this Spire to see how God has blessed us with this new life we have embraced!

Christ has also been with us as we explored the decision to make me a settled pastor here at our church. It is such a blessing for me and so we will have my Installation on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Please have a look at the Save the Date inside and make a note of it in your calendar. We hope and pray that as many of our members and friends will attend this important event for our church.

Christ continues to bless our church and give it life as we come together to love and serve. Christ sets the example for us in death and in life. He lived a life of peace and love and togetherness. With His Resurrection story still fresh in our minds and hearts, we are grateful for how He gave us a sense of hope for our lives. He forgave us our sins, and He taught the lessons of forgiveness that leads to peace and joy. His resurrection presents us with life beyond crisis, anger, hatred and more. He calls us to forgive, to live in harmony and care for each other and for this earth. Our church and this world need us all to be instruments of love, peace, and transformation!

May this writing be a blessing to your hearts and souls.

*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.***

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Inside this Spire</b>   |               |
| <b>Message</b>   | <b>Page 1</b> |
| <b>Prayer Concerns/<br/>Birthdays</b>  | <b>Page 2</b> |
| <b>Save the Date/Easter</b>  | <b>Page 3</b> |
| <b>Music Committee<br/>Christian Ed/ CFS<br/>Supper/Women’s Fel-<br/>lowship/Church Sup-<br/>per/ Church Council/<br/>Giving</b> | <b>Page 4</b> |
| <b>Music Committee Sur-<br/>vey</b>  | <b>Page 5</b> |
| <b>Calendar</b>  | <b>Page 6</b> |
| <b>Lectionary</b>  | <b>Page 7</b> |

**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](http://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**

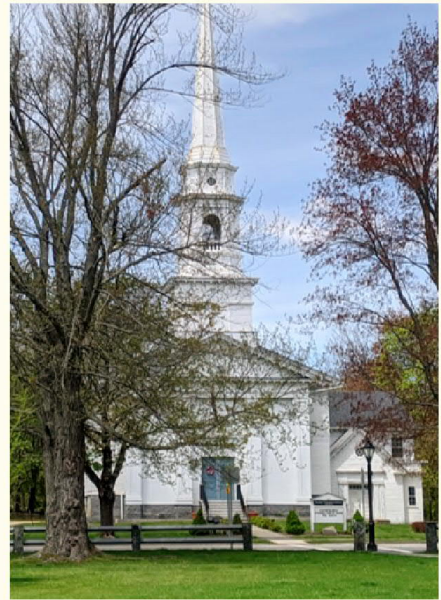


**Installation as Settled Pastor**

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*

**FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE**

On Page 5 of this month's Spire you will find a survey from the Music Committee, please feel free to fill it out and return it to the church by mail or by leaving it in the mail box in the back of the church. Your input will be very much appreciated.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School continues to meet after the Time with Children. Toni Brown and Kendra King meet with our youngest and Ann Clark and Charlie Page meet with our youth, twice a month.

**Mark your calendar: June 9th is Children's Sunday.**

*Christian Education Committee*

**CHOIR**

The choir will be preparing music for Pastor Margaret's installation. Please consider joining us on Tuesday nights at 7PM. Thanks!

*Deb Page and Karla Peterson*

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Meeting and Lunch on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. When we scheduled the meeting we forgot that it was Eclipse Day.

Our next meeting will be our Annual Meeting in May. We will let you know when & where later in the month, so watch your email for the information.

We will be doing the reception after Pastor Margaret's Installation on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Cathy Miknaitis will be calling you to donate food for the reception after.

It would be nice if you could attend and show your support for Pastor Margaret.

Thank you and we will be in touch with you!!!

*Lisa Holloway & Wendy Isgro*

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 14, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**  
In Fellowship Hall

**COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP**  
**DRIVE—THRU SUPPER**  
**American Chop Suey**  
**Salad & Desert**  
**Thursday, April 18, 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.

**Drive Thru Church Dinner**  
**Roast Turkey Dinner**  
Vegetables, Potato, Salad & Dessert  
**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
\$15.00 for Adults \$5.00 for Children  
For reservations, please call Lisa Holloway or the church office 978-355-4041

**Music Committee Survey: Praise Team at Barre Congregational Church**

To best meet the needs of our church the Music Committee respectfully requests your vital input:

**Purpose:** *The primary purpose and focus of all music at our church service is to focus on worshiping and glorifying our Triune God.*

**What is “Praise Team”?** *A Praise team, aka Worship team, refers to a genre of musical worship designed to encourage participation in community worship. Praise music is intended to be inspiring, uplifting, and can be a powerful tool for evangelism, attracting new members. Many of the songs are contemporary, but Praise team music is not constrained to the modern, and often includes traditional hymns which are often played on the organ.*

**How is it Done?** *Much like our choir, Praise Team vocalists and instrumentalists musically lead and encourage the congregation throughout the service. Because this genre encourages congregant participation, unlike the choir, there generally is not a ‘special’ anthem where congregants sit, watch, and listen. All song lyrics are projected so those church members who wish to look up while praising, may do so if they choose. At Barre, we intend to provide lyric sheets and notation for those that wish to read the music as they may do from the hymnals.*

*Because praise music usually includes electronic instruments, like guitar and bass, vocalists who lead utilize microphones to balance the sound with the instruments. The use of those tools, however, is not meant to signal a band performance. The primary focus is on praising together to glorify God.*

**Are you open to adding Praise Team genre to the music at Barre Congregational Church?**

Yes      b) No

Please explain your answer, so we can better understand the best way to musically serve:

---

---

---

Moving ahead, how often would you be willing for the Praise team to lead music?

Once a month      b) Once a quarter      c) Other, please elaborate:

---

---

The Screen currently used for children’s sermon and zoom, etc., is also used to provide lyrics for praise-led music. Do you find this to be:

A helpful addition.      b) Not helpful addition.      c) Other: please explain:

---

---

Because there will be new songs and music to learn, that music has been introduced for a few weeks before a Praise team service in the prelude time of the service. In time a repertoire will be amassed and we will need to introduce new music less often. Is this

Helpful      b) not helpful      c) Other suggestions:

---

Please share any comments, suggestions, thoughts that you feel might help the music committee in shepherding this new experience for Barre Congregational Church:

---

---

# APRIL 2024

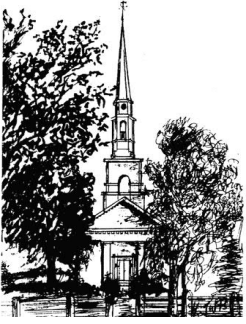


"A flower blossoms for its own joy." ~ Oscar Wilde

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|--------|--|---|---|--------|---|
|   | 1      | 2<br>9-12 Wendy work at home<br><b>7-8 Choir Practice</b>  | 3<br>9-12 Wendy work at home  | 4<br>9-12 Wendy in office<br>11:00 Pastor Margaret Of-<br>fice  | 5      | 6<br>7:00 AA  |
| 7<br><b>Second Sunday of Easter/ Communion</b><br>9:30 Pastor Margaret preaching/<br>Communion/Sunday School/Youth Group                                    | 8      | 9<br>9-12 Wendy work at home<br><b>7-8 Choir Practice</b>  | 10<br>9-12 Wendy work at home<br>9-12 Food Pantry Dis-<br>tribution<br><b>7:00 Church Committee</b> | 11<br><b>7:00 Deacons Meeting</b>   | 12     | 13<br><b>5:00 Drive Thru Church Supper</b><br>7:00 AA |
| 14<br><b>Third Sunday of Easter</b><br><b>8:30 Choir warm-up</b><br>9:30 Service/Pastor Margaret preaching/<br>Sunday School<br><b>11:00 Church Council</b> | 15     | 16<br>9-12 Wendy work at home<br><b>7-8 Choir Practice</b> | 17<br>9-12 Wendy work at home   | 18<br>9-12 Wendy in office<br>11:00 Pastor Margaret of-<br>fice<br>5-7 Food Pantry Distribu-<br>tion<br><b>5:30-6:30 Community Friendship Supper Drive Thru</b> | 19     | 20<br>7:00 AA   |
| 21<br><b>Fourth Sunday of Easter/Baptism</b><br>9:30 Service/ Pastor Margaret , preaching/<br>Sunday School   | 22     | 23<br>9-12 Wendy work at home<br><b>7-8 Choir Practice</b> | 24<br>9-12 Wendy work at home   | 25<br>9-12 Wendy in office<br>11:00 Pastor Margaret of-<br>fice   | 26     | 27<br>7:00 AA   |
| 28<br><b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b><br>9:30 Service/ Rev. Charlie preaching/<br>Sunday School   | 29     | 30<br>9-12 Wendy work at home<br><b>7-8 Choir Practice</b> | <b>PASTOR MARGARET'S INSTALLATION</b><br><b>SUNDAY, MAY 5TH AT 9:30 AM</b>                          |   |        |   |

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References—April 2024

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday, April 1, 2024</b>     | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:1-19; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49                             |
| <b>Tuesday, April 2, 2024</b>    | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:20-2:4a; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58                          |
| <b>Wednesday, April 3, 2024</b>  | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Song of Solomon 3:1-11; Mark 16:1-8                                |
| <b>Thursday, April 4, 2024</b>   | Psalm 133; Daniel 1:1-21; Acts 2:42-47   |
| <b>Friday, April 5, 2024</b>     | Psalm 133; Daniel 2:1-23; Acts 4:23-31   |
| <b>Saturday, April 6, 2024</b>   | Psalm 133; Daniel 2:24-49; John 12:44-50   |
| <b>Sunday, April 7, 2024</b>     | <b>Second Sunday of Easter-</b> Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31   |
| <b>Monday, April 8, 2024</b>     | Psalm 135; Daniel 3:1-30; 1 John 2:3-11  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 9, 2024</b>    | Psalm 135; Daniel 6:1-28; 1 John 2:12-17   |
| <b>Wednesday, April 10, 2024</b> | Psalm 135; Isaiah 26:1-15; Mark 12:18-27   |
| <b>Thursday, April 11, 2024</b>  | Psalm 4; Daniel 9:1-19; 1 John 2:18-25   |
| <b>Friday, April 12, 2024</b>    | Psalm 4; Daniel 10:2-19; 1 John 2:26-28  |
| <b>Saturday, April 13, 2024</b>  | Psalm 4; Acts 3:1-10; Luke 22:24-30  |
| <b>Sunday, April 14, 2024</b>    | <b>Third Sunday of Easter-</b> Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48       |
| <b>Monday, April 15, 2024</b>    | Psalm 150; Jeremiah 30:1-11a; 1 John 3:10-16   |
| <b>Tuesday, April 16, 2024</b>   | Psalm 150; Hosea 5:15-6:6; 2 John 1:1-6  |
| <b>Wednesday, April 17, 2024</b> | Psalm 150; Proverbs 9:1-6; Mark 16:9-18  |
| <b>Thursday, April 18, 2024</b>  | Psalm 23; Genesis 30:25-43; Acts 3:17-26   |
| <b>Friday, April 19, 2024</b>    | Psalm 23; Genesis 46:28-47:6; Acts 4:1-4   |
| <b>Saturday, April 20, 2024</b>  | Psalm 23; Genesis 48:8-19; Mark 6:30-34  |
| <b>Sunday, April 21, 2024</b>    | <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter -</b> Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18    |
| <b>Monday, April 22, 2024</b>    | Psalm 95; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-5  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 23, 2024</b>   | Psalm 95; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9; Revelation 7:13-17  |
| <b>Wednesday, April 24, 2024</b> | Psalm 95; Micah 7:8-20; Mark 14:26-31  |
| <b>Thursday, April 25, 2024</b>  | Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:1-7; Acts 8:1b-8  |
| <b>Friday, April 26, 2024</b>    | Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:11-13; Acts 8:9-25  |
| <b>Saturday, April 27, 2024</b>  | Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32  |
| <b>Sunday, April 28, 2024</b>    | <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter -</b> Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8 |
| <b>Monday, April 29, 2024</b>    | Psalm 80; Isaiah 5:1-7; Galatians 5:16-26  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 30, 2024</b>   | Psalm 80; Isaiah 32:9-20; James 3:17-18  |



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