"Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world."

The Barre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Barre Congregational Church, Children's Day, 1888

Sunday, November 15th, 2026
Homecoming Sunday

Rev. David Vanderlinde - Abernathy
Pastor Emertius

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship
Pastor: We gather today to worship the One who created us,
People: The One who calls us,
Pastor: The One who equips us,
People: The One who loves us without end.
Pastor: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn "We Gather Together" #276

Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Scripture readings
Ecclesiastes 3: 1,4
Proverbs 15: 13,15
Proverbs 17: 22
John 15: 11

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)
One: The word of God, for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith *(Unison)*
Barre Congregational Church Covenant, 1932, adapted
Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord, and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship, the enjoyment of Christian ordinances, the public worship of God, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the world, we do now, in the sight of God, and invoking God's blessing, solemnly covenant and agree to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as warranted by the Word of God.

We agree to maintain the institutions of the gospel, to submit ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of the Church, and to walk together in Christian love. And this we do depending on the aid of our Creator, who so loved the world that God gave the only begotten Son for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ who has redeemed us, and of the Holy Spirit our Comforter and Guide. Amen.

Sermon God Comes to You Disguised as Your Life

Anthem

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns
After each prayer shared, we respond, ***"O Lord, hear our prayer."***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #628

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Litany of Thanks *(Responsive)*
Pastor: O Lord our God, for the vision of those who planned for this congregation, and for the commitment and dedication of all who served together at its founding,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For those who have served so faithfully in leadership positions as Pastors, Deacons, Council Members and Staff Members,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For those who have willingly given of their efforts to teach, encourage, counsel and sponsor,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Pastor: For those who have been a foundational part of our fellowship for so many years, and now serve you in the church triumphant in heaven,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For the ways in which we have been able to care for one another, support one another on the journey of life, and give strength to one another,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For baptisms we've celebrated, professions of faith we have heard, and answers to prayer that we have experienced,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For a congregation that has always desired to worship you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For a commitment to remain true to your Word in a world of confusing and conflicting voices,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community with the word and witness of the Gospel,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord.
Pastor: For Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
People: We give you thanks, O Lord!

*Closing Hymn "God Be With You Til We Meet Again" #434

Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.
**Please sit quietly for the postlude.

If you'd like to donate to the work of the BCC, please scan the QR Code with the camera application on your cell phone. A link will pop up. Please click it and fill out the donation form.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.
We welcome those who question.
We welcome those who believe without question.
It is not for us to turn anyone away.

Arms wide open.
Welcome home.

Announcements:

Help make Sunday worship a welcoming experience for everyone! Jackie Johnson, Linda West, and Cary Friberg invite you to join them as a greeter. Never done it before? No worries! They'll give you a quick 10-minute training and cheer you on!

You can also sign up to be a lector (read Scripture) or usher. Sign up using the button below or the blue sign-up book at the back of the sanctuary. We'd love your help!

Upcoming events and meetings:
November 15th: Homecoming Sunday
Handbell Practice 8:00 am
Choir Practice 8:45 am
Worship Service with Rev. David & Sunday School 9:30 am
Bible study: United Church of Christ History, Theology & Practices
Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday
, Lector
, Greeter
, Flowers
, Coffee Hour
, Welcome
, Usher
Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.