

“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



The first coin to portray Christ.
Gold tremissis of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian II, 685-695.

Sunday, June 28th, 2026

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell

Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor: Freedom is coming!

People: We can hear it in the voices of the oppressed.

Pastor: Hope is coming!

People: We can see it in the eyes of all those who despair.

Pastor: God is here!

People: We count on God's presence with us, to guide, heal and uplift our spirits. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Had"

#725

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

God of all mercy, we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 56: 1 - 8

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 22: 15 - 22

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)

One: The word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faithful Patriotism

*Hymn

"This Is My Song"

#722

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns

After each prayer shared, we respond, "O Lord, hear our prayer."

Pastoral Prayer (*Prayer Response*)

Pastor: God of grace,

People: hear our 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

“For the Healing of the Nations”

#668

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

*Closing Hymn

“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

#651

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.

Announcement:

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings!

We need your help to make Sunday morning worship an inspiring and welcoming experience for members and friends alike. Please consider signing up as a lector (reading Scripture during the service), usher, or greeter. The blue sign up book is available at the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can also sign up by reaching out to deacons Cathy James (lectors), Bev Thomas (greeters), or Rev. James at revjames.bccucc@gmail.com.

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.

Upcoming events and meetings:

Sunday, June 28th: Worship Service 9:30 am

Sunday, June 28th: Rescheduled Admin Meeting (7 pm via Zoom)

Tuesday, June 30th: Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, July 1st: Spiritual Self-Defense for LGBTQ+ Folks and Allies Discussion Group at 6 pm

Thursday, July 3rd: Church offices closed for observed Holiday

Friday, July 4th: Church building closed for the Fourth of July

Sunday, July 5th: Worship Service 9:30 am with Rev. Carol Ann Barker

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Peter James, Lector

Susie and Bill Herrick, Greeter

Pastoral Care, Coffee Hour

Cary Friberg, Welcome

Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.