

“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



*Prophet Zechariah, St. Elizabeth and St. John the Baptist
by Ana Drăgan, Romania*

December 7th, 2025
Second Sunday in Advent

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor: There is a voice in the wilderness crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Every valley shall be filled and every mountain shall be made low.

Pastor: The crooked path shall be straightened and the rough patches made smooth.

People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

* Opening Hymn

“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn”

#138

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.**

Assurances of Grace

Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader: With all the faithful of every time and place, we bear witness that no one shall hurt or destroy on all God’s holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

People: God of Peace, God of Hope, into our darkness come.

Advent Response

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *v. 1 & 2*

#119

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 11: 1 - 10

Responding to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1: 5 - 24, 39 - 45

Sermon

The Cousins

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.

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

*Communion Hymn	“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”	#122
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Sacrament of Holy Communion	See Booklet
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*Closing Hymn	“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”	Insert
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Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

**Please sit quietly for the postlude.



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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, Dec. 7: Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 7: Video Bible Study 10:45 AM

Sunday, Dec. 7: Handbell Practice 12/noon

Tuesday, Dec. 9: Property Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Bible Brunch 10:30 AM

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Finance Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 13: Cookies and Cocoa with the Clauses, 1:00 - 3:00 PM *Donations of gift cards and cookies needed!*

Sunday, Dec. 14: Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, Dec. 14: Video Bible Study 10:45 AM

Sunday, Dec. 14: Handbell Practice 12/noon

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Bonita Cortese, Lector

, Greeter

, Ushers

Pastoral Relations, Coffee Hour

Jackie Johnson, Welcome

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

