First Presbyterian Church 19 Seminary Street - Barre, Vermont



"They Also Lead Who Serve"

Sunday Morning Service 7th Sunday of Easter - May 12, 2024

Welcome!



Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through Christian community and by living God's love in word and deed.

Email: fpcbarre@gmail.com, website: fpcbarre.org, Phone: 802-476-3966

GATHERING

Today's hymns are from the purple Glory to God hymnal.

Written copies of the sermon are available in the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would find it helpful to read along while the sermon is being preached. Extra copies may be taken by anyone after the service.

This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please remember to guard your privacy as best you see fit.

Gathering on Abenaki Lands

Prelude

Welcome and Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 1)

One: Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

All: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on God's law they meditate day and night.

One: They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

All: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: Let us worship God!

◆Opening Hymn #457 "How Happy Are the Saints of God"

- 1. How happy are the saints of God who do not heed the wicked way; delighting in the holy Word they seek God's wisdom night and day.
- 2. Like deeply rooted trees, they stand beside an ever-flowing stream. Their fruit is plentiful and good; their leaves are always growing green.
- 3. While wicked ones are whisked away like straw before the driving wind, the saints are firmly planted still, and God will keep them to the end.

Children's Sermon "Be Like Yeast"

PRAYING: CONFESSION/ASSURANCE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(In unison)

O great God above, behind, and before us, we confess that we have missed the mark this week. We have not done what we know we should have, and we *have* done what know we should not. The gifts you have given us too often lie dormant, yet we take pains to accomplish the unimportant. We have been less than we could be......

(time of silence for personal confession)

Words of Forgiveness

One: "I do not understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are and does not leaves us where it found us." So wrote Anne Lamott. Good friends, we are loved by God, and by the grace

of God in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

LISTENING

Prayer for Illumination (In unison)

Good Lord, throughout our lives, maternal figures have guided us, brought us back from false ways, lifted us up and dusted us off, and kissed the wounds that hurt so terribly. We know you have been active in those people, and we ask that we may be so enlightened as to bring light and life to others; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings Acts 1.15-26

John 17.6-19

Sermon "They Also Lead Who Serve" Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jones

RESPONDING

Affirmation of Faith

adapted from *The Confession of 1967*

The risen Christ is the Savior for all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as the Lord's reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.

◆Hymn #726

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

- 1. "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
- 2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

- 3. "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
- 4. "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People (Finishing with the Lord's Prayer, page 35. We invite you to use the words with which you are most comfortable.)

Our Father/Mother, 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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Reflection Music

Call for the Offering (We invite you to place your offering in the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. You can also give online or by mail. Thank you.)

SENDING

♦Closing Hymn #719

"Come, Labor On!"

- 1. Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."
- 2. Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share; to young and old the gospel gladness bear. Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.
- 3. Come, labor on. Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear! No arm so weak but may do service here. Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God's righteous will.
- 4. Come, labor on. No time for rest till glows the western sky, till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well done, well done!"

◆Charge and Benediction

Postlude

◆Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jones is our Guest Minister today. Thanks to James Nichols-Fleming for leading us in worship. Thanks to Alison Cerutti for making music with us.

Affirmation of Faith - The Confession of 1967 was the first new confession for the Presbyterian Church in 300 years. The 1960s was a turbulent time, and many Churches were taking prolonged in-depth looks at long-established truths. The Roman Catholic Church, for instance, was going through Vatican II; we were developing C '67. The Confession is centered on one sentence from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself..." How God was doing that, in all the spheres God was doing that, and what our role was in this monumental act is the subject of this Confession.

Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week we invite you to keep Paula Chiuchiolo in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for her, and her presence in this congregation. Hold her in the palm of your hand and let her feel your love. Give her the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face whatever challenges may arise.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian Church, we keep in our prayers other ministries within the Presbytery of Northern New England. This week our prayers are for the Mission at the Eastward - MATE and Executive Director, Chris DeLisle.



Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jones

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jones been preaching here monthly since September and will continue to do so, if needed, in the Fall. He is a retired Presbyterian minister, School Minister Emeritus of the Mercersburg Academy in south-central Pennsylvania, who also served churches in Harrisburg, Pa. and on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Larry received his doctorate from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2005 with a dissertation entitled: *The Enemy Is Inertia: Change in the Local Church.* He has done interim work with two churches in this presbytery while living in Bristol with his wife, Cindy. The Joneses have two grown daughters, both in education, one in Colorado and one in New Hampshire.

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

May 19 (Pentecost) (Full Zoom) - Rev. Simon Ruth de Voil
May 26 (Trinity Sunday) (Possible Full Zoom) - Rev. Susan McKnight
June 2 (Communion) - Rev. Carol Ann Barker
June 9 - Dottye Ricks

CHURCH SESSION & DEACONS

Building - Lee Aura Bonamico
Faith Development - Cathy Jamieson (chair), Janet Fuhrmeister
Fellowship - Lee Aura Bonamico, Janet Fuhrmeister
Finance - Cathy Jamieson (chair), Diane Nichols-Fleming

Flood Recovery Sub Committee — Diane Nichols-Fleming, Cathy Jamieson, Dottye Ricks, Lee Aura Bonamico, Sylvia Mitton

Nominating - Lee Aura Bonamico, Cathy Jamieson

Outreach - Jim Nichols-Fleming (co-chair), Roxanne Casadonte (co-chair), Dottye Ricks

Personnel - Chris Fuhrmeister (chair), Jim Nichols-Fleming

Worship - Dan Krymkowski (chair), Dottye Ricks

Deacon - Sylvia Mitton (chair)

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) - Barb Bernatchy, Marcia Cochran, Rachel Hickory, Dan Krymkowski, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Katherine Paterson, Dottye Ricks

OUR CHURCH

Administrative Assistant - Cindy Hooker

Music Director - Dan Krymkowski

Custodian - Jennifer Milne

Organist - Dan Krymkowski

Pianist - Alison Cerutti

Treasurer - Kathy Adams

Deacon of the Month - Pam Cyr

Elder of the Month - Diane Nichols-Fleming

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

May 7th – Peg Kiniry May 8th – Bruce Mitton May 9th – Nathan Adams May 12th – Jay Milne May 17th – Ruby Edgerly-Walsh

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

May 13th - Carl & Gina Hilton VanOsdall May 17th - Patrick & Kimberly Kelty

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Session, 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m. (No meeting in July)

Deacons, 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m. (No meetings in July and August)

Outreach, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Book Group, 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Meditation Group, Thursdays, 10 a.m.

TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:

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Website: fpcbarre.org

TO CONTACT CINDY HOOKER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Cell: 802-793-0639, Email: nonnicch@gmail.com;

Online Security - If you choose to protect your online security by changing your screen name, please email Josh at jman.laflower@qmail.com so he will know that it is you and can admit you to the service.



As a Matthew 25 church, First Presbyterian - Barre works to engage the community, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

First Presbyterian Church, Barre is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is a congregation in the Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE).

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