

First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont

Welcomes You to Worship



February 1, 2026

Sunday Worship with Communion
Year A, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome!

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

GATHERING

Today's hymns are from the purple "Glory to God" hymnal. This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.

Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Lord, we come into your sanctuary with eagerness.

Congregation: May we hear your call and speak your truth.

Leader: Lord, we come to abide with you in love.

Congregation: Gather us in honest and faithful community. Lord, prepare us to be people of hope and grace.

Leader: Kindle in us courage to live as brave and faithful disciples. Let us worship our God together in this holy place.

Congregation: Alleluia. Amen.

★Opening Hymn No. 379 "We Shall Overcome"

Refrain: *O deep in my heart I do believe, we shall overcome someday!*

1. We shall overcome; we shall overcome; we shall overcome some day.

(Refrain)

2. We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk had in hand; we'll walk hand in hand someday. (Refrain)

3. We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace; we shall live in peace someday. (Refrain)

4. We are not afraid; we are not afraid; we are not afraid today.
(Refrain)

5. God will see us through; God will see us through; God will see us

through today. (Refrain)

PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (Based on Micah 6:1-8)

Congregation: Merciful God, we come before you in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in peaceful community, but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us. Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call. Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way each and every day. Lord, hear our prayer.

(Time for silent personal confession.)

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole. Alleluia. Amen.

★**Passing of the Peace** - Now is the time we pass the peace saying "Peace be with you," responding with "And also with you." When we pass the peace of Christ, we affirm that the nature of our faith is founded in the love, grace, and peace Christ continually extends to us.

LISTENING

Scripture Lessons

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Dwight

Sermon

"Blessed?"

Rev. Dwight

Reflection Music

RESPONDING

★Hymn No. 785 "In Deepest Night"

1. In deepest night, in darkest days, when harps are hung, no songs we raise, when silence must suffice as praise, yet sounding in us quietly there is the song of God.
2. When friend was lost, when love deceived, dear Jesus wept, God was bereaved; so with us in our grief God grieves, and round about us mournfully there are the tears of God.
3. When through the waters winds our path, around us pain, around us death, deep calls to deep, a saving breath, and found beside us faithfully there is the love of God.

Affirmation of Faith

(from The Confession of 1967)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self. Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen.

Call for the Offering (you may place your offering in the box just behind the last pew of the sanctuary or give online at fpcbarre.org. Click the green "Donate" button on the front page. You may also mail in your offering. Thank you for your generosity!)

Prayer of Dedication *(in unison)*

Gracious God, thank you for the many blessings of our lives. Bless these gifts we give today. May they be used to bring about justice and joy for those who need them most. Amen.

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Children's Sermon

Communion

Invitation to God's Table

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

★**Closing Hymn No. 837** "What a Fellowship What a Joy Divine"

Refrain: *Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. **(Refrain)**
2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. **(Refrain)**
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting

arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude

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

Thanks to Alison Cerutti for being our music maker.

Thanks to Janet Furhmeister for being our worship leader.

Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep Allan and Polly Taylor in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for them. Hold them in the palm of your hand and let them feel your love. Give them the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face what challenges may arise.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian Church, we keep in our prayers other ministries usually within the PNNE. This week our prayers are for the Presbyterian Church of Barnet, VT. Rev. Dr. Daniel Massie, Interim Pastor.

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

The annual congregational meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Barre Vermont is on February 8, 2026. Our goal is to integrate some of the business portion of the meeting into the 10 a.m. morning worship service with the conclusion of the meeting to take place immediately after worship in the sanctuary.

HEDDING CHURCH MYSTERY DINNER THEATER! February 7, 2026 - Noon and 5 p.m.

Please join Hedding United Methodist Church, February 7 for their annual Mystery Dinner Theater! Shows are at noon and 5 pm. The play will feature several Hedding United Methodist members and Pastor Rae. In addition, Pastor Dwight and Barb Bernatchy have roles in the play. It will be a fun experience with a delicious meal and wonderful entertainment - or at least tolerable

entertainment! Tickets WILL sell out, so you are encouraged to purchase them via this link as soon as you are able - <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHXB/campaign/C-149Y0>.

Tickets are \$30.00 and go toward the Hedding United Methodist general fund. The food will be excellent, the play will be funny, and you'll be glad you went!

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Session, 2nd Sunday, after Church

Deacons, 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Meditation Group, Thursdays, 10 a.m.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

February 1 - Elise Atwood

February 2 - Rebecca Casadonte

February 8 - Jen Renaud

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

None

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We are a Matthew 25 church in the Presbyterian Church (USA). This means we have three areas of focus to our ministries: **building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty**.

First Presbyterian Church, Barre is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are members of the Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE).

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