

First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont

Welcomes You to Worship

Do not withhold
your mercy from me, LORD;
may your love and faithfulness
always protect me.

Psalm 40:11

DailyVerses.net

January 18, 2026

Year A, Second 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.

Prelude

Alison Cerutti

Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts.
God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

Congregation: We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears. Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

Leader: Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Congregation: Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.
Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

☆ Opening Hymn No. 1

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity!

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sin of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness. Let us join in the communal act of repentance:

Unison Prayer of Confession *(based on Psalm 40)*

Congregation: Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds.

(Silence is kept for individual confession of sins.)

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *(based on Psalm 40)*

Leader: God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground.
God has not withheld mercy from us.

Congregation: Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and
know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

★**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 Lesson	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11	Rev. Dwight
Sermon	"Solid Footing"	Rev. Dwight
Reflection Music		Alison Cerutti

RESPONDING

★**Hymn No. 339** "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1. Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parent sighed? We have

come over away that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Prayers of the People

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

Leader: God doesn't desire our sacrifices or offerings. God's desire is for us to be partners in the redeeming and reconciling work of God on earth. We have been given all we need to fulfill that call, and so we are invited to offer what God has given us in this service. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

Congregation: Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives, not as a vain sacrifice, but as a joyful response for your steadfast love. Use what you have given us to your glory in every place. Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all of creation. Amen.

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

★Closing Hymn No. 546

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

1. Now there is no male or female, now there is no free or slave; now there is no Jew or Gentile in the earth Christ died to save. Christ has set us free for freedom we no more sing, slavery's creed; old submissions cannot claim us; Christ has set us free indeed.
2. Crucified with Christ the Savior, baptized in his holy death, and as Christ was raised to glory we have new life on this earth. Power of water and God's naming, turning us from dark to light, joins us to those who, before us, ran the race and fought the fight.
3. Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way, let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

Benediction

Postlude

Alison Cerutti

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

Thanks to Alison Cerutti for being our music maker.

Thanks to Jim Nichols Fleming for being our worship leader.

Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep Susan and Rob Strachan in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for them. Hold them in the palm of your hand 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 all Hospital and Hospice Chaplains. Revs. Karen Fleming-Caplette, Mia Dyson, Devin Dickinson, Skye Murray, Deadra Ashton, Chris Fuhrmeister.

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.

THE 60TH ANNUAL SCOTTISH TEA
Saturday, January 24th - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



We hope you can join us in the newly renovated vestry.

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 gourmet 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. 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 to went! Here is the link to purchase tickets: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHXB/campaign/C-149Y0> - Mystery Dinner Theater | Hedding UMC

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:

January 20th - Kathy Paterson

January 22nd - Rachel Lissor

January 22nd - Ned Adams

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

January 22nd - Barbara Bernatchy and Jon Kilian

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**TO CONTACT CINDY HOOKER,
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We are a Matthew 25 church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 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.

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