

First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont

Welcomes You to Worship



January 25, 2026

Year A, Third 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 "O Splendor of the Father's Light"
 Plainsong Chant Arranged by Robert J. Powell
 Rebecca Mueller, Clarinet

Call to Worship *(Psalm 27:1)*

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Congregation: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: We gather in the presence of God. Let us open our hearts and minds in worship.

★ **Opening Hymn No. 69** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

Refrain: *Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Refrain

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Congregation: Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for you and feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and your promises. We believe you have turned away from us in anger. We ask why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage. We believe, God. Help our unbelief.

(Silence is kept for individual confession of sins.)

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *(Psalm 103:17)*

Leader: "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Congregation: 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 Lesson Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23 Rev. Dwight

Sermon "Call and Response" Rev. Dwight

Reflection Music and Choral Anthem "Let There Be Peace"
by Jill Jackson and Sy Miller

RESPONDING

★**Hymn No. 726** "Will You Come and Follow Me"

1. "Will you come and follow me if 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 kin 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.

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)

Holy God, we present these offerings to you in faith. We trust that you will bless and use them to further Christ's ministry and serve those in need. May these gifts bless those we know who are suffering and those known only to you. Amen.

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Children's Sermon

★ **Closing Hymn No. 65** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow. Let

the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

SENDING

Benediction

Postlude

"The Lost Chord"

Arthur Sullivan

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

Thanks to Dan Krymkowski and Rebecca Mueller for being our music makers.
Thanks to Diane Nichols Fleming for being our worship leader.

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:

January 27 - Chris Fuhrmeister

January 29 - Chelsea Wait

January 30 - Rachel Hickory

January 30 - Jane Lyttle

January 31 - Peg Lawson

February 1 - Elise Atwood

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

None

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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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jman.laflower@gmail.com so he can admit you to the service.

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