

**First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont**

Welcomes You to Worship



February 22, 2026

**Sunday Worship
Year A, First Sunday in Lent**

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 *(inspired by Psalm 32)*

Leader: The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

★Opening Hymn No. 291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters; you called to the deep; then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*
2. You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand; and you goaded your people with a law and a land. When they were confounded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*
3. You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill; then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still. And down in the city, you called once

again when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

4. You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes; from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

PRAYING FOR RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Silent confession of individual sins

Leader: Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear and receive the good news:

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Know this and be at peace. 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

Matthew 6:7-15; Exodus 16:4-12

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Daily Bread"

Rev. Dwight

Affirmation of Faith

(from A Brief Statement of Faith) (in unison)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reception of New Member - Rebecca Casadonte

Ordination and Installation of Rebecca as a Deacon

RESPONDING

★ Hymn No. 700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna

work so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!.

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

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!)*

God is generous and calls us to offer our time, talents and resources back to God, the giver. God has modeled this generosity like a parent giving up an only child. Love and gratitude lead us to give abundantly.

Prayer of Dedication *(in unison)*

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and kin-dom's expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service.

Reflection Music

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

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

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

Children's Sermon

SENDING

★Closing Hymn No. 542 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

1. God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
2. God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.
3. God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.
4. God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet
again.

Benediction

Postlude

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

Thanks to Alison Cerutti for being our music maker.

Thanks to Sylvia Mitton who is leading us in worship.

Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep Polly and Raymond Thomas 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 the First Presbyterian Church, Graniteville, VT which is in transition.

Adult Worship Study – Please join us in an adult study class after most services - beginning this Sunday, February 22 and running through Easter. Rev. Dwight will let us know on which Sundays we will meet. The study is entitled “Lent in Plain Sight - a Devotion Through Ten Objects.” We will meet in person and online. Childcare can be provided if you let Rev. Dwight know you will need it. Come join us as we continue our Lenten trek through the desert towards Easter.

One Great Hour of Sharing – “One Great Hour of Sharing” is the largest annual special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is collected during Lent to support global ministries and focuses on disaster response, hunger relief, and community development. To donate, please use the special envelope in your bulletin.

Mark Your Calendars – Rev. Dwight will be installed as our Minister of Word and Sacrament on March 15 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary with a reception to follow. Please plan to join us on this most joyous of occasions. More to follow.....

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 24 - Jim Taylor

February 24 - Isaac Hilton VanOsdall

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

None

TO CONTACT REV. DWIGHT McCORMICK :

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**TO CONTACT CINDY HOOKER,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

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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.*

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