

# West Barre Witness

May 2019



## EASTER SURPRISES

Quite a number of years ago, there was a family gathering at my parent's house. With so many people there, and the grandkids being there, well, it was a good day.

However, it is my guess that it wore my parents out. Marty and I and our three young children were the last to leave. We loaded the kids into the van, and started for home.

We were about a half mile down the road, when I realized that one of us left their jacket hanging in the coat closet. So, I turned around and went back.

Everyone had been in and out of the house all day long, so when I went back, I just walked into the house and got my jacket.

My mother and father were watching TV, and zoning out from all the activity of the day. They didn't hear nor see me enter into the house. When I said something, well, I guess I startled them. I explained what I was doing, offered another farewell, and left.

My poor parents. What they thought they were finished with, suddenly appeared again.

I think of that most every Easter season. The scriptures say that Jesus kept suddenly appearing when the disciples thought it was all over. I can imagine them encountering Jesus, and thinking, "Well, that's over. Let's go back to normal".

However, when you truly encounter Jesus, you never go back to what has been. Furthermore, any time you think you can confine Jesus to what you have already experienced, you will be mistaken.

Enjoy this Easter season, but be ready, you might just encounter the power of the love of Christ in an unexpected way.

**Rev. Brad**



## *THANK GOD for MOTHER'S LOVE*

*There is no love, like a mother's love,  
no stronger bond on earth...  
like the precious bond that comes from God.  
to a mother, when she gives birth,*

*A mother's love is forever strong,  
never changing for all time...  
and when her children need her most,  
a mother's love will shine.*

*God bless these special mothers,  
God bless them every one...  
for all the tears and heartache,  
and for the special work they've done.*

*When her days on earth are over,  
a mother's love lives on...  
through many generations,  
with God's blessings on each one.*

*Be thankful for our mothers,  
for they love with a higher love...  
from the power God has given,  
and the strength from above.*

*Anonymous*



## MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Demographic Presentation @ 7 pm
- 6 Missions Committee 5:30 pm  
Ad Council 7 pm
- 7 Worship Committee 6 pm
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 Memorial Committee 7 pm
- 14 Communications Committee @ Noon  
Education Committee 6 pm
- 19 **LAST DAY of Kids Sunday School**
- 21 Trustee meeting 6 pm
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 Hospitality Committee 6 pm



**Graduates** - Please let me know of any high school or college graduates. We would like to honor them on Sunday, June 23. I will need names by MAY 26.  
Alice Mathes



America was not built on fear.  
America was built on courage,  
on imagination and an  
unbeatable determination  
to do the job at hand.

**CELEBRATE – HONOR – REMEMBER**



## Workday this Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>

Everyone is invited to come and take care of the spring work at the church. The trustees have composed a list of work to be done. This includes taking care of leaves, brush piles, garden work, cutting up of the fallen trees....well, the list goes on.

The work starts at 9 am and ends at noon with a light lunch. Come and enjoy the property, the fellowship and the exercise!



## The Southern Sudan Health Project

Thanks to all who came to the gathering to hear about the Southern Sudan Health Project on March 22. Nancy Williams and Mayol offered the story of this amazing project in a grand way.

The congregation then gave \$3000 and the United Methodist Ladies gave another \$200 towards the project.

With these gifts, two t-shirts were given to the church in recognition of giving enough to support 2 Home Health Promoters for a year.

Each month, the 8 Home Health Promoters aid nearly 800 people every month in South Sudan, one of the most troubled areas of the world.

Paul Riak is the administrator of the project in Malek, South Sudan, and I will forward you a quote from his last email: "God Bless you for your commitment."

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*"The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives..."* **Gertrude Jekyll**



### **Everything I Know I Learned in My Garden....**

Begin early. But it's never too late to start.

If it doesn't work, try something else.

Life is fragile. Protect it.

Life is enduring. Trust it.

Life is daily. Water it. Weed it.

Life is indescribably beautiful. Enjoy it and say thank you.

Growth takes time. And while you're waiting, pull a weed.

There's something for everybody – different blooms for different rooms.

Pruning hurts. Pruning helps you grow.

Sometimes the tiniest flowers smell the sweetest.

To everything there is a season. But know what season you're in.

Dream big. But try not to let ambition turn your joy into drudgery.

Grow what you love. The love will keep it growing.

You reap what you sow. But there will be surprises.

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Demographic Presentation** - On May 1<sup>st</sup>, members of the West Barre UMC gathered to hear a report on the demographics of a five mile radius surrounding the church.

Rev. Lauren Swanson (Penfield UMC) developed a report and presented some of it to those in attendance. It was amazing. The population and its variations were shared. Age groups and the current trends for each segment of the population was shared. Income, lifestyle segments, and preferences for religion and what is desired in church life was shared. The list goes on.

Watch in the coming newsletters for information from the report. This report will enable the church to move forward in helping to assist more people in developing their relationship with God. It will also enable the church to address the issues of living in this area.

**Luke in Lent** - The congregation took on the season of Lent with the listening to, or the reading of the Gospel according to Luke. Each week a tally was kept as listeners/readers absorbed the four chapters for the week. Each participant was invited to place an "x" on the tally board. The totals were for each week as follows: 30, 30, 27, 23, 22 and 16. Each week, Rev. Hunt led a study on the four chapters for the week. Background was given, and insights were shared from each of the 24 chapters.

Thanks to all who participated and allowed the scripture to settle into their lives in new ways.

**VBS - August 5-8 / 5:30-8 pm**  
Our theme is "To Mars and Beyond"

We are looking for volunteers to be teachers, assistants for music, crafts, etc. If you have helped in a certain area and would like to do that again, let me know. This program won't be possible if we don't have willing and active participants. Prayerfully consider helping in any way possible.

Our next Education meeting will be MAY 14 @ 6 pm. Members are: Melanie Hickman, Dora Leader, Danny Shuler, Karen & Samantha Markle, Lee Preston and Jim Peglow.



## Prayer Requests

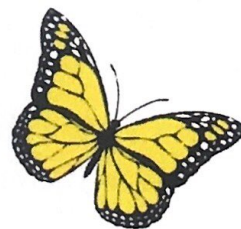
### PRAISE/JOY

April Birthdays & Anniversaries  
Karen Markle's brother's grandson Joshua  
Emma Mathes (accepted to college)  
Naomi Mathes (accepted to college)  
Albion's high school play  
Toby Mack concert  
Easter Cantata  
Bill & Mary Shuler  
Men's breakfast  
Cheryl Maxon's granddaughter's engagement



### CONCERNS

Family of Mary Torrey  
Family of Doreen Brumbaugh's Uncle Arney  
Vicky Houseknecht's neighbor Kathy  
Debbie Preston  
Louise Henderson  
Judy Durrant  
Doreen Brumbaugh  
Dennis Beedham



### PRAISE & CONCERN

Bill Caldwell  
Cheryl Maxon's oldest child

**Just imagine how different the world could be if  
we all spoke to everyone with respect and kindness.**

## Happy May Birthday & Anniversary\*

- 6 Bob & Roberta Call\*
- 7 Ben Hickman
- 8 Olivia Mathes
- 10 Dan & Lee Preston\*
- 17 Dean & Karen Dibley\*
- 27 Melissa Dibley
- 28 Jack Baron, Sr.



*Having kids - the responsibility of rearing good,  
kind, ethical, responsible human beings - is the  
biggest job anyone can embark on.*

*Happy Mother's Day*

### Greeter/Ushers

- 5/5 Bob & Eileen Collins
- 5/12 Dan Shuler & Dora Leader
- 5/19 Vicky Houseknecht & Cheryl Maxon
- 5/26 Alice Mathes

### Liturgist

### Altar Flowers

- 5/5 Bob & Eileen Collins
- 5/12 Dan & Lee Preston
- 5/19 Lanor Markle
- 5/26

### Children's Church

Steve & Melanie



QUILT FOR OUR JUNE 2019 AUCTION



The "Feathered Star" quilt is red, white and blue medallion star quilted with stars and swirls.

Measures about 80" x 92" and has a blue backing.



## QUILT FOR OUR JUNE 2019 AUCTION



The "Diamond Joy" quilt is a multi-colored scrap quilt. Mostly browns, greens, salmons and blues with a brown backing quilted with an all-over meandering pattern. Measures about 80" x 92".



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Rev. Brad Hunt  
Church 589-5388  
[www.westbarreumc.org](http://www.westbarreumc.org)

Return Service Requested

Blessings to:

