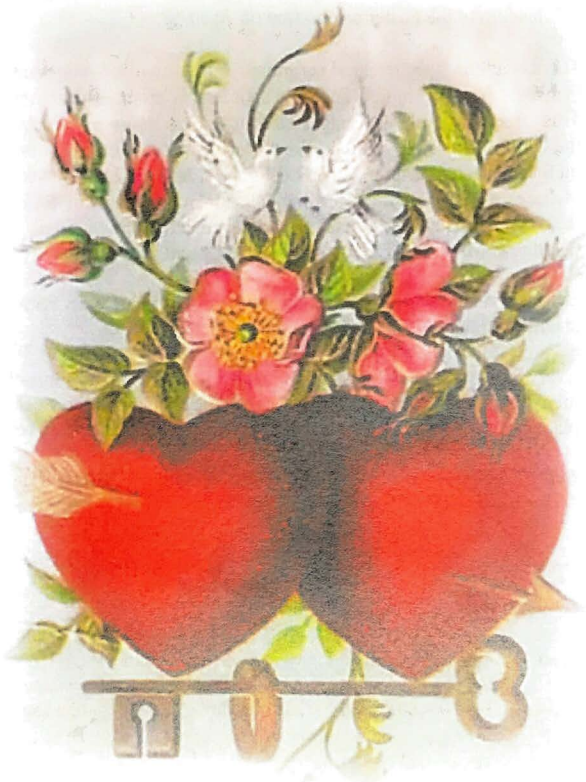


West Barre Witness

February 2020



MATTHEW in MARCH !

West Barre United Methodist Church is inviting everyone to read the Gospel of Matthew in this coming season of Lent!

There are 28 chapters in the Gospel according to Matthew. Ash Wednesday will be on February 26, which begins the season of Lent that will lead up to the Easter celebration on April 12.

There is a three-year cycle of scripture readings that are suggested by the Consultation on Common Texts, an ecumenical group of denominations. This three-year cycle is a suggested source of scripture for worship within the United Methodist Church. West Barre UMC's worship is often based on the suggested scripture. The Lectionary readings for each week includes an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles (letters of the New Testament) and each year a Synoptic Gospel (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). This year's Gospel is Matthew.

Because Matthew is the Gospel for this liturgical year, West Barre UMC is choosing to read that Gospel in the season of Lent.

Every Sunday there will be a chart located in the sanctuary for each member of the congregation that has read the chapters of the week to place an anonymous "X" indicating that the chapters have been read.

Every Sunday in Lent the worship will be based on a reading from Matthew.



SMALL GROUPS !

In addition, Rev. Brad will meet with a group of 5 or more people to delve into the depth of meaning of the week's reading.

If you are interested in such a study, you are invited to gather together a group of 5 or more people and schedule a time with Rev. Brad to hold a weekly or occasional gathering.

These gatherings can be held in a home, a restaurant, or the church building.

Continued.....

Continued.....

Together we will let the Gospel of Matthew lead us to new discoveries as we make our way to Easter 2020.

The Reading of Matthew Schedule:

February 26-29: Chapters 1-4

March 1-7: Chapters 5-8

March 8-14: Chapters 9-12

March 15-21: Chapters 13-16

March 22-28: Chapters 17-20

29-April 4: Chapters 21-24

April 5-11: Chapters 25-28



Worship Schedule

2/2 Micah 6:1-8 is the scripture for the day, and it tells about the proper offering to God. We will celebrate communion on this day.

2/9 Matthew 5:13-16 is the scripture for the day, and it calls us to be salt and light.

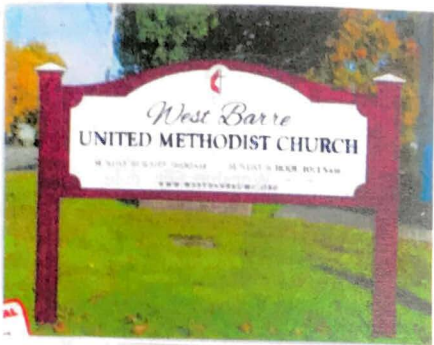
2/16 Deuteronomy 30:15-20 is the scripture for the day and it is instructions for the people of Israel before they cross into the Promised Land. It warns of wandering from the faith.

2/23 This last Sunday in the Epiphany season is a scripture that comes from Matthew 17:1-9, that is about the Transfiguration. Jesus goes up the mountain with a few of his disciples, where he meets with Moses and Elijah. It is a foreshadowing of the resurrection.

2/26 Ash Wednesday

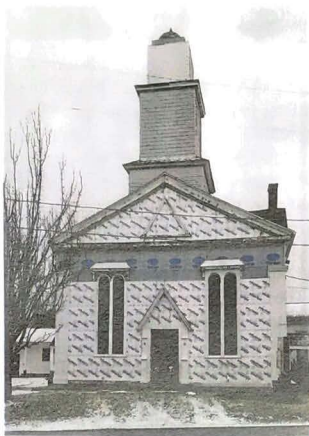
CALENDAR

- 2/3 Ad Council 7 pm
- 2/10 Trustees meet 6 pm
- 2/11 Communications Committee @ Noon
- 2/15 Christian Education Committee 9:30 am
- 2/18 Hospitality Committee 6:15 pm



The Board of Trustees are excited to share this prototype of our new church sign. It will be replacing the existing sign, which has deteriorated beyond repair. The new, double sided sign measures 36" high x 84" wide, made of 2" V carved HDU with 6" vinyl clad posts. There will be spotlights on either side of the sign. The sign is being made at this time, and will be installed in the spring. The final cost is \$4,605. Donations are welcome to offset the cost.

We all look forward to our new church front, bright, happy new sign and freshly painted side doors. WBUMC will have an updated, revitalized new look. Just in time for spring! Any questions can be directed to the Board of Trustees. Respectfully submitted by Lanor Markle



Construction work on the front of the Church is underway!

As many of you have noticed, the front of the church is in the process of taking on a new look! Weathered, wind damaged aluminum siding is being replaced with new vinyl siding and aluminum trim.

The Church Bell Tower is also on the agenda for refurbishing. The parsonage roof has already been repaired as well. The cost of these construction projects is being paid for by the Church's (Home Owner's) Insurance Policy coverage due to wind damage.

Ash Wednesday Worship February 26 @ 7 pm

Lent begins the journey to Easter. Lent is forty days, not counting Sundays, leading up to Easter. Traditionally, Lent is a time of adjusting our lives to become more disciplined in serving God. Lent was originally a time to prepare for church membership.

Ash Wednesday worship will be celebrated in West Barre and will include the churches of the Albion Ministerium. There will be special music as part of the worship.

As we began Lent last year, there will be a time of confession before God. Those confessions will be destroyed, and there will be an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes.

Everyone is invited to begin this journey to Easter on this special night.



February's Mission

The February mission offering will go to "One Hope for Asia", a mission established by Tina Nguyen who last year worshipped with us and told of her work in Viet Nam and Cambodia. Check out the website to discover more information.



The **Memorial Committee** has been busy updating the Thank You and Remittance cards we use when Memorials are given to the Church. We also have purchased new items for the Church. We look forward to dedicating those items on Feb. 6th during our Worship Service and having a display of the new cards in the Chapel during the Coffee Hour.



*Oh the Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord.*



As I sit to write this report, that is the song that keeps running through my head and my heart.

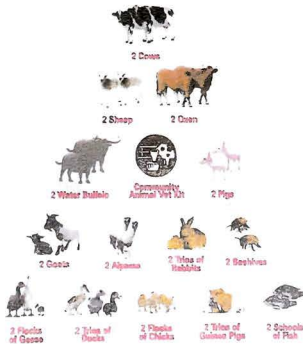
At the end of November, the congregation voted to give Jesus the gift of an "Ark" through Heifer International.

At the end of the month of December, God's people had given \$6,700!!! That is an Ark plus \$1,700 toward another one. God is good!!

The breakdown of money was: Church offering \$4,223; Election Day dinner profit \$2,000; Sunday School \$558; and \$19 from a jar at Harrington's Farm Stand.

Included in those amounts are gifts from another church and from a member out of state.

I was sure we could get one Ark, but of course, God went way beyond my expectations. Someday I will learn not to limit God.



Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. They provide livestock and agricultural training to improve families' lives in 20 countries, including the U.S. Families who receive livestock pass along the offspring as their own herds and flocks grow. Over time, a whole community benefits from this gift.

Each Ark costs \$5,000. Your gift can be given in honor or memory of someone. Cards are available upon request. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews. Checks can be mailed to WBUMC, 5377 Eagle Harbor Rd., Albion, NY 14411, specifying "the Ark". Final offering for Jesus' birthday gift will be during our Christmas Eve service.

Matthew 25:35 -- "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in".

The Missions Committee keeps marching on. We have a mission for every month.

January was Community Action. As of the 26th, we had \$367 to send them and 33 food items have been dropped off.

February's mission is Tina Nguyen. Tina has visited our church and gave a powerful testimony for the Lord and for her work in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Tina is by birth Vietnamese, but grew up in and attended Syracuse University. She was living the "American Dream", job, house, car and was living a good life.

She grew up in a house where her family was Buddhist. In college, she became a Christian through friends. Tina felt that there was something missing in her life and felt led to go to Vietnam to help the people, especially the young girls.

Tina sold everything and went. She felt the call and answered it. She became God's servant. She has touched many lives there, but she also became a target for the government which is ruled by communism.

Tina fled Vietnam and went to Cambodia where there isn't such strict government rule.

She has friends that are starting a church and she has started coffee shops for the girls to work in so they don't need to walk the streets for their living.

Tina is only supported by God's people. She depends on the Lord's favor and is a true missionary, heart and soul.

I hope Tina will come speak at the church either in March or April. Keep your eye on the website. We will make sure it is announced.

Please keep Tina in your prayers.



Joy Markle

Differences, differences....

The last congregation I served before coming to West Barre, was Faith Journey United Methodist Church. If you wanted to attend worship at Faith Journey, there were three different worship services in two different locations. There were three different ways of worshipping within the congregation.

In addition to the three worship services, Faith Journey had helped create a new congregation called "New World Ministries", which consisted of post-refugees from Africa. These folks were from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, and the Congo. They used many different languages, mostly in their singing.

It came to be that Faith Journey also helped create a new United Methodist congregation of post-refugees from Burma (Myanmar). That congregation helped bring a Nepali post-refugee congregation into United Methodism. They in turn brought another Nepali congregation into the United Methodist building, though, as yet, they are not United Methodist.

Each of the worship services would be very different from the other, yet still worshipping the same God. Each group of people had their own longings, wounds, and thus carried a different perspective of God's vision for the world.

I have no idea how many different ways God is worshipped around the world. My hope for the West Barre congregation is the same for every congregation around the world, that the power of the love of God finds its way into every person, no matter who they are.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was open to the many different faiths, and different ways of worshipping God. In one of his often-quoted sermons, he said "If your heart is as my heart, then take my hand".

My hope is that this is always the basis for our ministry together in this community, and communities around the world.

Rev. Brad

All I Want Is To Love You

M.S. Lowndes

Come to my refreshing waters

Let your fretting cease

Cast your burdens upon me

And I will give you peace

Always know I love you

And won't leave you alone

So when you face the darkness

You won't face it on you own

When you're in need of a friend

To listen to your cares,

Know that I will be that friend

To hear your desperate prayers

I know just how you're feeling

Before you kneel to pray

So nothing will surprise me

In what you want to say

And I will not condemn you

When you confess your sins,

I just long for you to come

And let my love come in

I am here to heal you

And protect you from harm,

For all I want is to love you

And hold you in my arms.

Jesus



Dear Lord,

As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as *You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross* that we might receive the gift of *Eternal Glory with You. Amen.*

*At the end of the day what really matters
is that your loved ones are well, you've done
your best and you're Thankful for all you have.*



Calling All Gardeners!

As our days slowly gain extra minutes of daylight, our minds turn to the gardens. I'm looking for people who have garden ideas, thoughts, schemes, and are willing to devote some time and muscle to the park gardens. This is NOT a

committee, but a group of folks looking to beautify the park, pay tribute to those who worked in the church and gardens before us, and share God's glory with everyone in the community around us. Please call/text Lanor at 585-298-1965.

Prayer Requests

PRAISE/JOY

Pete & Lois Nesbitt

Joanna Hunt & Jacob Kenneth Hunt

Jim Peglow's niece and great-niece in attendance

Karen Markle's blessed weekend with family

CONCERNS

Doreen Brumbaugh

Jimmy (friend of Vicky Housenecht)

Storms across the land

Plane crash

International tensions

Gordan Ofhous

Joe Riley & Kaitlyn

Wanda Maxon

Lanor Markle

Sherril Hickman

Fonda Carr



Congratulations!



West Barre UMC has a new part of the congregation!
Jacob Kenneth Davis was born on January 4, 2020 to
Joanna and Chuck, and, of course, big sister Ruthie.
All are doing well.

Happy February Birthday & Anniversary*

- 4 Wanda Maxon
- 5 Bob Collins
- 10 Russ & Cheryl Maxon*
- 14 Bob & Eileen Collins*
- 27 Bill Shuler
- Casey Mull



Greeters/Ushers

2/2 Karen & Samantha Markle

2/9 Jim & Jean Peglow

2/16 Dan Shuler & Dora Leader

2/23 Lanor Markle & Hunter

Altar Flowers

Karen & Samantha

Jim & Jean -

In memory of Mom & Dad's anniversary

Norm & Naomi -

In memory of Uncle Jim

Lanor & Hunter



*SAYS HE WANTS TO CONFESS HIS
NEIGHBOR'S SINS."

West Barre United Methodist Church
5377 Eagle Harbor Rd.
Albion, NY 14411

Rev. Brad Hunt
Church 589-5388
www.westbarreumc.org

Return Service Requested

Blessings to:

