

West Barre Witness

May 2021



No Greater Gift

*Master of all living things—
Your ways are ways of love!
You gave us gifts of warmth and light,
You hung the sun above.*

*You gave us fertile fields to plow,
You gave us fruiting trees,
You gave us mountains to be climbed,
You gave us mighty seas.*

*You gave us challenges to meet
To fill our waking hours,
You even shared a glimpse with us
Of Your creative powers.*

*But the greatest gift You gave to us,
The gift we most extol,
Is the gift of life — eternal life—
An everlasting soul!*

Alice Joyce Davidson

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life....' John 5:24 (NKJV)

Happy Mother's Day

Mom-ism's

- ~ Money doesn't grow on trees.
- ~ If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.
- ~ Don't make me turn this car around!
- ~ Don't make me come in there!
- ~ Don't make me tell you again!
- ~ Because I said so, that's why!
- ~ Just wait until your father gets home.
- ~ You won't be happy until you break that, will you?
- ~ You're the oldest. You should know better.
- ~ I'm talking to you.
- ~ What are you doing out of bed?
- ~ Give me a kiss.
- ~ Take a jacket. Take a sweater. Take one anyway.
- ~ Do you realize that could kill someone?
- ~ I'll count to ten and then we're going without you.
- ~ Stop it or I'm taking you home right now.
- ~ I need a hug.
- ~ Clean up your room.
- ~ Set the table.
- ~ Stop your playing and eat.
- ~ Move your glass. It's too close to the edge.
- ~ Watch it!
- ~ Is your homework done?
- ~ You don't always get what you want. That's life.
- ~ When I was your age
- ~ When you have kids, I hope they're just like you.
- ~ When you have kids of your own, you'll understand.
- ~ One day you'll thank me.
- ~ Be good!
- ~ **I LOVE YOU!**



Prayer Requests

PRAISE/JOY

A beautiful day

Jim & Kim Heiler

Lanor's trip/Ray Markle

Mary Shuler

Praise for the rain

Ruth & Dick Miller's grandson Matthew Sullivan

CONCERNS

Family of Gary Antinore Jr.

Family of Bev & Dale Spencer's sister

Family of Cyndy VanLieshout's father

Betty Hazel

David Davis

Joy Markle

Judy Durrant

Kathy Huffman's brother-in-law

Marge Davis & family



BOTH PRAISE/JOY & CONCERN

Doris Antinore

Johanna Dibley

Family of Bill Shuler's memorial service

CALENDAR

Mother's Day/Family Day - Ladies, wear your bonnets or hats

Choir practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Happy May Birthday & Anniversary*

- 6 Bob & Roberta Call*
- 7 Ben Hickman
- 10 Dan & Lee Preston*
- 17 Dean & Karen Dibley*
- 27 Melissa Dibley



*"In a world where you can be anything,
Be Kind"*

As your mother
I promise you that I will always
be in one of 3 places...

In front of you to cheer
you on, behind you to have
your back, or next to you so that
you aren't walking alone.



Notes from the Past...

The West Barre United Methodist Church will celebrate its 189th Anniversary this year!

It was founded June 27th, 1832.

Elisha Wright, the founder of the church, arrived in Barre in 1818 on the corner of the Gillette Road.

Stately forests covered the entire area. The forests were hundreds of years old. The trees had provided nutrients to the soil as they had died and fallen *silently* to the ground.

The soil was virgin soil full of the nutrients sown into it at creation and enriched by the fallen trees.

Elisha found that he was not completely alone when he arrived. Solomon and Nathan Bragg had just recently arrived at what became Braggs Corners. Elisha and Nathan Bragg heard one another chopping wood! Imagine the quiet required to hear someone chopping wood with an axe that distance!

Native Americans also lived in the area. To think that they may have been hiding behind trees watching this lonely white man work! The new settlers were happy to discover that the Native Americans were a friendly tribe.

Some of the paths that Elisha and the early settlers used were paths that the Native Americans had cut out of the wilderness. We drive on some of these same paths today because they were used as the tracks for our roads.

Bears, wolves, bald eagles, large owls, large hawks, white-tailed deer, and small wildlife shared the forests with the settlers.

A group of settlers first started meeting as a religious society in 1821 at a log schoolhouse located near the current cobblestone on Pine Hill. Why Pine Hill? Between 1821 and 1824, a Rev. Mifflin Harker, an itinerant preacher, visited the religious group. In 1827, the services were moved to the newly erected frame schoolhouse built at Manchester Corners, now West Barre.

On June 27, 1832, at eight o'clock in the morning, the society was officially established as "The First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in South Barre." Elisha Wright asked the Rev. Philo Woodworth to organize the Methodist Episcopal Society and dedicate the schoolhouse.

In 1833, the first house of worship was built on ground designated in the Old Holland Survey as "Lot number twenty-six in the fourteenth township and second range of townships." This lot was on the northwest corner of the Hill Road and the Gillette Road. Women were allowed to worship in this church. There were pews on opposite sides of the sanctuary to separate the men from the women.


Elisha Wright thought that this intersection would become the center of the community but it did not. He then moved the congregation to a building near the driveway to the West Barre Cemetery.

The land for the current church was purchased in 1850. The unusual triangle piece of land. Did you ever wonder why? Did they want ample room for the horse sheds that would be needed when the services were held?

The Chapel was built in 1908. The basement was dug out in 1966 out of necessity because the foundation was deteriorating and the beams under the altar were rotten. The office wing was added in 1996.

The West Barre United Methodist Church remains a beacon on the "hill" that the congregations have built spiritually and manually through 189 long years.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." Psalm 127:1

Penned by.....
Judy Durrant Church Historian