

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Healthful Resolutions Part 3

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was an American revivalist, philosopher and theologian who served as a key figure in the Great Awakening.

Each New Year I entertain his writings, as he wrote at length on the theme of healthful resolutions. Consider the following as we enter into 2026:

1) Vengeance
What did Edwards resolve on the theme of vengeance? “Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.” Scripture warns against seeking vengeance. For instance (Rom. 12:17a, 19, NIV): “17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. . . . 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ [cf. Deut. 32:35] says the Lord.” Rather, we are to take the far higher-yet more difficult-road of blessing those who persecute us, and doing good unto them (Rom. 12:14, 20). Paul concludes his commentary on the topic of vengeance with the following:

Romans 12:21
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We also do well to deal with those heart elements that give rise to vengeance, including but not limited to anger. Consider:

Ephesians 4:26
26 “In your anger do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

It is far easier to deal with a forest fire before it starts; when it is still but a spark. Deal with anger quickly, learn to forgive, and release any desire for revenge unto God. Trust in Him for He shall do right-ly!

2) Peace-Making
What did Edwards resolve concerning inter-personal peace? “Resolved, always to do what I can towards making, maintaining and preserving peace, when it can be without over-balancing detriment in other respects.” He was a man who sought harmony in his relationships. What of us?

Christ Jesus called us to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9): “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” When we work for peace with our peers, we mimic the nature of our Father in heaven, who sought peace with sinful man. Of

course, I posit that there is a vast difference between being a peace-maker and a peace-keeper. A peace-keeper will do anything and everything for the appearance of peace. Such will avoid necessary conflict or enable, mistakenly confusing peace with quiet. However, a peace-maker will do what is necessary to establish, preserve and promote genuine peace. Thus said, I have come to love the wisdom of Paul on the matter (Rom. 12:18): “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Is there disunity in your world? Have you done everything, as far as it depends on you, to be at peace with all around you?

3) Watch Your Words
What did Edwards resolve concerning his words (i.e., as they relate to others)? “Resolved, never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, and of love to mankind, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings, and agreeable to the golden rule; often, when I have said anything against anyone, to bring it to, and try it strictly by the test of this Resolution.” This is a fanciful way of saying that Edwards pledged to watch what he said of others, knowing that careless words have a truly destructive capacity.

Proverbs 18:21a
21 The tongue has the power of life and death . . .

If we are to speak, let our words be done according to the words of Christ-what Edwards and others call the Golden Rule:

Matthew 7:12b
12 . . . in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . .

In the New Year, let us watch our tempers and our tongues, love God and others, and work for the purpose of real peace.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

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2026: A Pastoral Message by Pastor Margaret Keyser First Sunday after the Epiphany

“He was Baptized,
Preached Peace, and did
Good.”

Scripture Reading:
Acts 10 v 34 – 43
I. Introduction
Whenever we are given assignments - be it at work, home, as a community volunteer, coaching sports teams, or serving at church and more - we take time to understand our assignments and make every effort to complete them successfully.

We work hard and hope that others will see we try our best and that we do our work with love and care. We are not always perfect, and we make mistakes, but we learn and then we move forward with what we are charged to do. We must now ask the question, what have we learned from Jesus Christ, who was sent by God with a specific purpose and assignment?

II. He was baptized, preached peace and did good.

In our passage we see Peter preach to a gathering of people who, under the guidance of Cornelius, came to listen to the Apostle, after he was called by Cornelius to come to his house.

Cornelius was a God-fearing man from Caesarea. He was considered a Gentile, someone not from the Jewish faith, but he was a righteous man, believed in God and gave generously to those in need. Cornelius received a vision from God to send for Peter to come to his house. Meanwhile Peter had also received a vision of heaven opening, a sheet full of animals descending and God telling him to kill and eat them.

Certain animals were classified as unclean under Jewish law, prompting Peter to seek clarification from God regarding this matter. When Peter arrived at Cornelius’ house and heard his account of God speaking to him, Peter realized that God had a message for him as an apostle, that God does not, according to verse 34 show favoritism, but accepts all people from all nations who fear God and do what is right.

God wants all people, and all nations to receive the message of peace and salvation, including Cornelius and those who were gathered with him, who were considered gentiles. Peter now had a better understanding of his vision and assignment, which was to preach to the people gathered at Cornelius’ house, irrespective of their backgrounds. He needed the encounter with Cornelius who received God’s message directly about the promise of salvation.

In Peter’s sermon, he speaks these words, “You know...” that God sent Jesus of Nazareth with the good news of peace and you know that after He was bap-

tized. He was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and you know that after that, He went around the villages in Galilee and into Judea, speaking about peace and healed people.

Peter knew that his audience saw or heard about Jesus who did all these things. It was at Jesus’ baptism that the power of God became manifest in Him, enabling Him to speak about peace, which in the Hebrew context meant well-being and freedom from hostile powers. God’s power through Jesus, the Son, wanted them to experience well-being and freedom from those who were hostile to them.

Through God’s power Jesus was able to do good to all around Him and healed them, because their illnesses were because of the power of the devil over them. He freed them from those afflictions and diseases, because God was with Him, says Peter in verse 37. Through God’s power and intent, Jesus was sent to bring forth a new dispensation of equality, of good things, healing, of peace and salvation.

III. Conclusion

We know how good it feels when we recover from illness after receiving medical care, right? We know the feeling of relief when unexpected money arrives, and we can pay our bills after worrying about them. We know that shared feeling of relief when we can help others who are experiencing difficulties. That is precisely what was meant when God sent Jesus Christ into the world, to bring the message that God wants everyone in this world to feel at peace and have the experience of well-being. God wants everyone in this world to be healed and to receive the care they need and deserve. God wants every person to have what they need to live within God’s Kingdom. This was Peter’s lesson about cultural, ethnic and religious divisions and how, with God there was no more Jew or Gentile, no more slave or free, male nor female, as explained in Galatians 3 v 28. Through Jesus’ baptism in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, God’s power of freedom, love and care came through Him and was now offered to very human being. Jesus Christ understood His assignment to all the nations of the world. May we all, while we understand our earthly assignments, also realize like Peter that God’s intention for all of humanity is equality, well-being and healing for all, and may we carry forth this divine message and mission to those around us. Let us join together in prayer and collaboration with Jesus Christ to help bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St., Barre

Bernice Alice (Mennard) Miller, 89

BARRE – Bernice Alice (Mennard) Miller, 89, of South Barre, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center.

Bernie was born on Sept. 19, 1936 in Pennsylvania to George A. and Kathryn (Emerich) Mennard. She graduated from Barre High School, class of ‘54 and attended Worcester Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing. On May 19, 1956 she married Earl Miller of Saginaw, Michigan.

In 1969 she began her career as a paraprofessional at Quabbin Regional, first in physical education, then in the nurses office and finishing as career counselor. Bernie was very active at Quabbin coaching JV Girls basketball in 1971, part of the leadership group of paraprofessionals, chaperoned many dances and was co-class advisor to the classes of 1991 and 1996. In 2006, after 37 years she decided to retire.

Outside of Quabbin, Bernie was a 4-H leader to the “Cooking Cookies,” member of the Cradle Rock Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Council of Aging and Christ Church Knitters. She was a very active parishioner at Christ Episcopal Church in South Barre teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, serving on the Altar Guild and Vestry.

More than anything Bernie loved and closely followed (and had an opinion on) all New England sports teams, especially the Celtics. She took it upon herself to text her children and grandchildren updated scores throughout the games. Bernie also took great pride in attending her grandchildren’s theatrical and sporting events wherever they might be.

Bernie loved to knit, read and play games. Neighborhood Pinochle card games in the summer

DEATH NOTICE
Miller, Bernice (Mennard) Died Dec. 31, 2025 Celebration of Life to be held in spring

and many hours of table games with family on every holiday gathering.

She leaves behind three daughters: BethAnn Gingras of Winthrop, Maine; Cynthia and husband Rodney Wood of Inverness, Florida, Ariann and her husband Ed Huether of Lindenhurst, New York, one son, Scott and his wife Gayle of Cape Coral, Florida. Grandchildren David Komosa, Michael (Lexie) Gingras, Timothy Gingras, Kathryn (Andrew) Miller, Antione Gingras and Carly Miller. Great grandchildren Kane and Ronin Komosa, Amari and Ezekiel Gingras and Virginia Barger. She also leaves her sister, Barbara Mennard, sister-in-laws, Rose Smith and Margaret Parens, many nieces and nephews as well as being a surrogate mother and grandmother to many friends over the years who have become like family, further extending her reach of love. Bernie is predeceased by her husband Earl Miller, brother George J. Mennard, brother-in-law Carl Miller, sister-in-laws Alice Whalen, Marylee Hoveland and Ann Furrow.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude for the love and care given to Bernice by the staff of unit 2 and the therapists at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center and Brookhaven Hospice.

A celebration of life will be held later in the spring. In lieu of flowers, Bernice has asked that donations be made to the St Labre Indian School, 112 St Labre Campus Drive, Ashland, MT 59003. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Homes, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

Public Notices

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 000061
ORDER OF NOTICE TO:**
**Heather L. Seaton;
Jeremy T. Levesque**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):
Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered 40 Kendall Street, given by Heather L. Seaton and Jeremy T. Levesque to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Homebridge Financial Services, Inc., dated March 26, 2019, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60191, Page 178, and

now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **February 23, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on January 9, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

01/15/2026



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