

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Hear No Evil

“See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil,” a maxim popularized in 17th Century Japan, teaches us to avoid all manner of evil influences, fostering discretion in the pursuit of piety.

Though these words, and the associated image of three monkeys, cannot be found in Scripture, the truths that such touch on certainly can. This week, let’s explore the call to “hear no evil.”

1) Significance

The phrase “hear no evil” calls us to be wary regarding what we fixate on with our physical and spiritual ears; to consider those things that arrest our attention, for what we long-entertain may well induce us unto evil. We do well to protect our moral focus, guarding against temptations that seem to center upon matters of hearing. What does the Word teach herein?

2) Selections

Psalm 1:1 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

Psalm 1:1b is often understood to include avoiding the input and influence of the ungodly. We must practice caution concerning the counsel of the wicked, for bad company corrupts good character (1 Cor. 15:33). We take on the nature of those we give ear to, so consider those whose voices that you regularly heed or take in! Who are the people you listen to? Sadly, a great many heed all the wrong voices. Let us note what the author of the Book of Proverbs notes in this selection:

Proverbs 17:4 (NIV)

4 A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

We face a crisis in our generation of attending to the wrong voices. These words, penned by Paul, provide ample warning:

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (Emphasis Mine)

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to

myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Could this be why Christ shared the following?

Mark 4:24a

24 “Consider carefully what you hear”

Dear reader, do you not realize that the Christ is calling out to you? Have you entertained His voice and responded in kind?

Revelation 3:20 [Jesus Speaking]

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

3) Illustration

Genesis 3:1-6 (italics mine)

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman [Eve], “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her and he ate it.

Whose voice was Eve attuned to herein? Was she fixated upon the voice of God or captivated by whisperings of a snake? Whose promise(s) did she ultimately believe? How dearly she paid for her failure to heed the simple call: “hear no evil.”

Yet how often we follow in her footsteps amid living. Next time you have a choice between hearkening to the call of God or the serpent (i.e., Satan), choose wisely. And before you dismiss the reality of Satan as nonsensical, who told you such?

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. We will continue in the next edition with the call to “speak no evil.” 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.

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God
60 Main St. South Barre
jamesfoley
@newlifebarre.org
978-355-6407

Fourth Sunday of Easter

“The Shepherd Knows our Names!”

Scripture Reading: Acts 2 v 42 – 47 and John 10 v 1-10

I. Introduction

It is meaningful when people in our lives give us names they cherish.

I personally have quite a few nicknames given to me by my family, friends and colleagues and I love them all. But it is even more special to think that Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Saviour know all our names. He knows the names of all who believe and follow Him. Let’s have a look what we mean to Christ, and how we can be renewed as a community of faith, following the example of the Early Church.

II. The Shepherd knows our names

After reading these two passages I am left with a clear impression of a strong sense of community and togetherness among the community of faith and the protection of the flock / community of sheep by the Shepherd.

After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, and the speech Peter gave to the crowd about Jesus, His teachings and all the miracles He performed, the crowd inquired what to do next. He urged them to repent and be baptized, and about three thousand joined the faith that day. One can only imagine their jubilation, the work of the Holy Spirit among them and the deep sense of connection with God and with each other.

Luke described beautifully how the believers, as a result of the events on the Day of Pentecost, came together, devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles about the life and ministry of Jesus, His death and resurrection and God’s gift of salvation to them. They gathered in fellowship, a term derived from the Greek word Koinonia, which signifies a community united through shared experiences of the Holy Spirit, as noted by Eckard J. Schnabel in his commentary on Acts.

They maintained a harmonious community, strengthening their sense of unity by sharing meals and consistently participating in communal prayers, which constituted a central element of their spiritual practice. A renewed sense of community care inspired them to sell their belongings and give the

proceeds to the poor.

The members of this faith community were clearly moved by the Holy Spirit, feeling a deep inner joy that also showed outwardly as they praised God. Others were inspired by what they saw, and we see in verse 47 how the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. This passage offers insight into how the Holy Spirit operated in the Early Church, highlighting both God’s powerful actions and the apostles as they began their ministry of healing many people.

In John Chapter 10, Jesus uses the Shepherd and sheep metaphor to illustrate his caring, protective relationship with his followers. The Shepherd knows the name of every sheep, and the sheep recognizes the voice of their Shepherd. They will not follow the thief who comes to steal but will follow the Shepherd who has the authority to open the door to the sheep pen, and they follow Him as He leads them out. Jesus explains to the disciples that He is the Good Shepherd, taking care of the community of believers, but that He is also the door for many to come in and out safely and find pasture, the peace they need.

He gave His life for His sheep, so they can feel safe with Him. He knows the name of every believer, and He invited everyone to be part of this new life with Him.

III. Conclusion

What an honor to be part of the church of Christ, the place where believers in Christ come together to worship God, and to listen to the word of God through the prophets and the apostles of old. It is place of joy and exuberance, and it is a place of prayer and a place of care for the needy. It is a place where the fellowship is special, because the source of this fellowship is Christ who reminds us that we are blessed when we are transformed according to the values of Christ.

It is a place where we are reminded that Christ knows each of our names and our lives. We are encouraged this morning by the life of the early church and the role of Christ as the Good Shepherd in our lives. We are encouraged to be open for the work of the Holy Spirit within us, transforming us, healing us and binding us together in a close fellowship.

May God bless us and fulfil in us the desires of God’s heart, so we will go forth and spread this light within us to those around us.

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

Legals

BARRE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Barre Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Selectmen Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 40 West Street, Barre, MA requested by Phoebe Siter for a variance from zoning setback requirements at property located at 69 Hubbardston Road, Assessors Map EA, Parcel 422 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 72390, Page 247.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street – Suite 5, Barre, MA, barreboards@townofbare.com or contact the Boards’ Office at 978-355-2504 ext. 8.

Joshua Smith, Chairman
4/30, 05/07/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO26D0506DR Melissa Bergeron vs. Jason Bergeron DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Hannah M White, Esq. CALLAHAN, INMAN and BONZAGNI, P.C. 1700 West Park Drive Suite 200 Westborough, MA 01581**

your answer, if any, on or before **07/22/2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, **Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 23, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

04/30/2026

Town of Barre Board of Health

The Town of Barre Board of Health will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005 to see if the Town will vote on proposed fee schedule changes.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or mail written comments to the Board of Health prior to the hearing.

The proposed fee schedule can be viewed in the Board of Health office during regular hours.
04/23, 04/30/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON MAY 2, 2026 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2010 Infiniti EX35
VIN JN1AJ0HR2AM754082
2017 Ford Taurus VIN 1FAH-P2E8XHG105341
2011 Volkswagen Jetta VIN 3VWVZ7A9J9BM374160
2013 Honda CR-V VIN 2HKRM4H72DH615582
2014 Subaru Legacy VIN 4S3BMBL68E3018633
2009 Lincoln Navigator VIN 5LMFL28529EJ02048
2015 Audi Q7 VIN WA1LGAFA4FD006798
2004 Subaru Impreza VIN JF1GD67594H503868
2000 Toyota Corolla VIN 1NXBR12E3Y2355533
2007 Hyundai SANTA FE VIN 5NMSH73E17H026571
2011 Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHZ8CH2B5M17094
2013 Nissan NV VIN 1N6AF0LY7DN108416
2007 Hyundai ELANTRA VIN KMHDU46D57U120947
2007 Hyundai SANTA FE VIN 5NMSG73D67H107012
2017 Nissan Murano VIN 5N1AZ2MH3HN165864
2004 Honda Pilot VIN 2HKYF18554H503474
2022 Hyundai TUCSON VIN KM8JFCAE2NU103513
THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT **EARLY’S ON PARK AVE. 536 PARK AVE., WORCESTER, MA 01603**
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

Town of New Braintree Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with MGL, Chapter 87, Section 3, a public hearing will be held at **9:00 am on Thursday, May 07, 2026**, in the Select Board’s meeting room at the Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, to consider the removal of trees on Bridge Road and Harrington Road. The trees to be removed have been clearly marked. Reason for removal: dead, diseased and/or will hinder road construction. All interested parties are invited to attend.

This meeting is open to the public.
04/23, 04/30/2026



Miles Funeral Home to hold Sharing Hope Seminar

HOLDEN – Miles Funeral Homes will hold a Sharing Hope Seminar on Saturday, May 16 from 1-3 p.m.

This seminar is free and

open to the public. A light lunch will be served and each guest will receive a complimentary copy of Joanne Cacciatore’s best selling

book, “Grief Is Loving.” People may call Pamela Reidy at 508-829-4434 or email pam@milesfuneral-home.com.



1158 Main Street
Holden
508.829.4434

100 Worcester Road
Sterling
978.422.0100

800-983-4434

www.milesfuneralhome.com



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Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.