

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

“The Precious Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Scripture Readings:
Matthew 13 v 31 – 33
and 44 - 52

I. Introduction

I imagine we all understand what it means to be loved, to cherish the gift of close friendships, to find peace at home, and to experience fulfillment in our earthly calling through our work, gifts, and talents.

We also know what it is like to lack close friendships, to be disappointed by others, to face difficulties at home and at work, and to struggle to fulfill our dreams and abilities. Let us consider what Christ teaches His disciples and the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven—its beauty, its precious nature, and its worth beyond even the things we treasure in our lives.

II. Why did Jesus speak in Parables?

When the disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 13 v 10 why He spoke to the crowd in parables, He answered by saying, “The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has, will be given more, and they will have abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.”

Then, in verse 16, He told the disciples, “Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” Jesus was speaking within the context of His ministry that was well received by His disciples and the few who followed Him, and whose lives were transformed by Him, but at the same time His message of the Kingdom

of Heaven, of love, peace and forgiveness was not received in openness by some of those in the crowd but was treated with disdain and disrespect.

I can only imagine that He understood how demanding His work was, giving Himself each day to bring the message of the Kingdom of Heaven into the kingdoms of this earth. Though He was called to this work, it was exhausting, and at times He must have been dismayed by the people’s lack of understanding and the closedness of their ears, eyes, and hearts.

Parables kept those with closed hearts from fully hearing, seeing and understanding. It was only by allowing Him to break through their resistance that they would understand the deep mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.

III. The Precious Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven

To show the crowd the precious nature of the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus compared it to a mustard seed that grows into a great tree where birds find shelter; to leaven that a woman mixes into flour to make bread for many; to a hidden treasure that leads a man to sell everything to buy the field; and to a pearl of great value for which a man sells all he has.

The Kingdom of Heaven may seem small and insignificant to some, but when people truly receive it, embrace it, and allow the Spirit of God to transform them, its beauty permeates their lives and draws them into a life with God that is awe-filled, peaceful, joyful, and inclusive—welcoming more and more into this beautiful divine space.

After this beautiful explanation, Jesus then turns to the sobering reality of what it means to reject the Kingdom of Heaven with disdain. He told the parable of the net that gathered every kind of fish: the fishermen kept the good fish and discarded the bad.

In the same way, He says, at the end of time the angels will separate the righteous, who surrendered to the Kingdom of Heaven and will dwell with God forever, from the wicked, who rejected it and, by their own doing, will be handed over to the fiery furnace.

IV. Conclusion

Imagine ourselves among the crowd listening to Jesus today. We are invited to reflect on how open we are to the lessons of the Kingdom of Heaven and to the Spirit of Christ shaping our hearts, minds, and spirits so that we may live according to the Kingdom’s values: loving God and one another as ourselves; practicing the humility, mercy, purity of heart, righteousness, peacemaking, described in the Sermon on the Mount; and rejecting attitudes and actions that diminish, disrespect, or oppress others.

Christ knew the crowd in His day and He knows us in the crowd today. Through His sacrifice on the cross, Christ opened the way for all of us to be saved and to enter the Kingdom of Heaven in all its mystery, beauty and loving kindness.

When we accept Him as our Savior and allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse our hearts, minds, and souls, God begins transforming us and deepening our understanding of Christ’s lessons for us. May God help us today, this week and beyond to reflect and open our eyes, ears and hearts to hear what He has to say to us individually and surrender our lives fully to Him.

As we do, may we heed Christ’s warning about the end times, turn away from harming others, and choose instead a life of love, peace, and unity.
Amen.

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

Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON August 1, 2026. AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2018 Nissan Altima
VIN 1N4AL3AP8JC101513
2015 Acura TLX
VIN 19UUB1F58FA007285
2014 BMW 3 Series
VIN WBA3K5C5XEKT33553
2020 Nissan Sentra
VIN 3N1AB8CV7LY287127

2021 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN KL79MUSL7MB153038
2015 Honda Civic
VIN 19XFB2F59FE214729
2018 Hyundai SONATA
VIN 5NPE24AF5JH706590
2008 Nissan Quest
VIN 5N1BV28U98N107538
THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT
Early’s on Park Ave.
at 536 Park Avenue
Worcester, MA 01603
07/16, 07/23, 07/30/2026

Sale of Motor Vehicle
under MGL Ch 255 Sec 39A
Notice is hereby given by: **Dave’s Tow & Transport, Inc** pursuant to the provisions of MGL C.255 sec 39a, that on 8/7/26 at 843 Worcester Rd.,

Barre, MA the following motor vehicle will be sold by private sale to satisfy the garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges and other expenses incurred, including sales costs.
2014 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF2SJAHC0EH424475
John Francis Tambeau
48B Mechanic St, PO Box 364
Barre, MA 01005
07/23, 07/30, 08/06/2026



Lions Club hosts online Pampered Chef party

PETERSHAM – The Lions Club sponsors an online Pampered Chef party now through Monday. Aug. 31.

Based on product sales,

20 to 30% will be donated to the Petersham Lions Club.

People may visit <https://table.pamperedchef.com/party/3486703kyv> to order.

People may email lynne-shaw@gmail.com with non Pampered Chef questions and email sleblanc_pc@hotmail.com for Pampered Chef questions and/ or to book a party.

Obituaries

Kay (Petersen) Boothman, 94

W O R C E S T E R / HARDWICK – Kaye (Petersen) Boothman, 94, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, with her family by her side.

Her husband, Donald Boothman predeceased her in 2016. She is survived by her sons: Glenn Styron of Long Beach, California and Rodrick Styron of Seattle, Washington; her stepdaughters: Barbara Grofic and her husband Barry of Maryland and Laura Stamm and her husband Mark of Hawaii; her grandchildren: Dylan Styron of California, Kelsea Styron of Nevada, Pearl Marie Styron and Morgan Styron of Washington; great-grandchildren: River Styron and Mordecai Arric Dylan Styron; her sister, Lois Huffman of Silver Lake, Washington along with several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Her sister Claire Purnell and her first husband Douglas Styron predeceased her.

Kaye was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota the daughter of the late Ralph P. and Frances L. (Oltman) Petersen.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University and settled in

Northport and Centerport, Long Island, New York where she raised her sons.

She was a successful real estate agent working with Merrill-Lynch and Gravel Real Estate for many years.

Kaye was a talented gardener, painter and knitter.

When living in Hardwick, she and Donald raised llamas, and they were founding members of the Friends of the Stone Church in Gilbertville, along with good friends Mary and Phil Warbasse and other community members, a cause she was active in until her passing.

She was an amazing athlete who enjoyed sailing in her earlier years and playing tennis into her 80s (winning Hardwick Fair tournaments frequently).

All who knew and loved Kaye will miss her dearly.

All are invited to celebrate Kaye’s life on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026, at 2 p.m. at The Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville, MA 01031. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to The Friends of the Stone Church, P.O. Box 347, Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031.



Joan Ann (Martin) McDonald

HARDWICK – Joan Ann (Martin) McDonald, of Hardwick, passed away peacefully on July 24, 2026 in the loving home of her daughter, surrounded by family.

Born to Joseph L. Martin and Emily D. (Lacombe) Martin of Ware, Joan lived a life defined by strength, resilience, kindness and unwavering love for her family.

Joan is survived by her children: Karen Majka, Sharon Long, Darryl Boudreau, Shelley Boudreau, Sherry Gould, Darren Boudreau and Ricky Boudreau. She also leaves behind 23 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husbands, Harold G. Boudreau and Thomas McDonald; her parents, Joseph L. Martin and Emily D. Martin; her sister, Jean A. Perron; her sons, Harold G. Boudreau and Derrick J. Boudreau; her daughter, Cheryl J. Lemoine; her grandson, Jason Berthiaume; her great-grandson, Ryder A. Demers; her great-great-granddaughter, Ella Skye Kline; and her beloved furry companion, Ginger, who held a special place in her heart.

Joan embraced life

with passion and determination. She loved traveling, especially her cross-country adventures out west, and looked forward each year to spending winters at her home in Florida.

She found peace and fulfillment working in her yard, often tending to it from sunrise until sunset.

She enjoyed reading romance novels, creating Native American inspired crafts, painting, horseback riding, and hunting with her boys at hunting camp.

Whether she was building, repairing, or creating, there was truly very little Joan couldn’t do. She was remarkably resourceful, independent, and never afraid to tackle a challenge herself.

Throughout her career, Joan worked at Diamond National, where she repaired machinery, showcasing her exceptional mechanical ability and work ethic. She later served as the Head Telephone Operator at Belchertown State School, where she dedicated many years before retiring.

Above all, Joan had a generous heart and was always ready to lend a helping hand to her children, grandchildren, friends, or anyone in need. She pos-



DEATH NOTICES

Boothman, Kaye (Petersen)
Died July 21, 2026
Services Aug. 16, 2026

McDonald, Joan Ann (Martin)
Died July 24, 2026
Services Aug. 5, 2026

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.

sessed a rare combination of quiet compassion and fierce determination.

Strong-willed, hardworking, and endlessly capable, Joan met life’s challenges with courage and grace. Her beauty radiated not only through her smile but through the strength of her character, her resilience.

Joan’s legacy lives on through the generations she nurtured, the countless lives she touched, and the enduring memories of a woman whose love, strength and spirit will never be forgotten. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

All are invited to her calling hours on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, from 4-8 p.m. at Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware, MA 01082. Her funeral service is Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, at 10 a.m. at United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., Ware, MA 01082 followed by burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Greenwich Road, Ware.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Barre Gazette

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