

Summer begins again.
How many
do I still have?
Not a worthy question,

I imagine.
Hope is one thing,
gratitude another
and sufficient

unto itself.
The white blossoms of the
shad have opened
because it is their time

to open,
the mockingbird
is raving
in the thornbush.

How did it come to be
that I am no longer young
and the world
that keeps time

in its own way
has just been born?
I don't have the answers
and anyway I have become
suspicious

of such questions,
and as for hope,
that tender advisement,
even that

I'm going to leave behind.
I'm just going to put on
my jacket, my boots,
I'm just going to go out
to sleep
all this night
in some unnamed, flowered
corner
of the pasture.

BCC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Being the Church in the Summer

This poem by Mary Oliver titled “Another Summer Begins” is perhaps not as well known as her poem “The Summer Day” but it does remind me that each summer we have is to be cherished and lived with gratitude.

I am writing this article on the first day of summer and I am filled with gratitude for health, the beauty of our state, the vibrancy of our church and the hope of our faith. We are to fully live the gift of our lives. We do so knowing that life is fleeting and as precious as a summer day.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our church. If you can, join us for worship on Sundays. Worship is enhanced and blessed when you are here. If you can, come to one of our community building or faith formation events planned for the summer. It is always good to connect as the body of Christ. If you can, volunteer for one of the community breakfasts or help with Laundry Love. It does the soul good to remember the “least of these.” *If you can, please keep up your pledge over the summer months. It makes things much easier for us.*

You will read in this newsletter a warning for a “Congregational Meeting” on July 16 immediately following worship. The repair of our roof is urgent and will require all of us pitching in what we can.

Hum! I have politely asked you to not forget your church during these summer days. Rest assured your church will not forget you. You are held in prayer. I cannot wait to hear from you at the end of the summer and learn how many of you, young and old, followed Mary Oliver’s example and found a corner in which to sleep outside or at least opened the windows of your bedroom wide and listened to the sounds of summer.

May you have a blessed summer!

Rev. David

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rev. David is available at other times by appointment.

Outreach Opportunities

Theology on Tap

June 27, July 28, August 25

6:00 pm

Contact: Hollie Friot
holliefriot@gmail.com

Laundry Love

July 25, August 22 There is always a need for snacks and quarters.

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Contact: Rev. David
aberlinde@myfairpoint.net

Tuesday Breakfasts

Contact: Bev Thomas
brthomas2@myfairpoint.net
476-6968

2nd and 3rd Saturday Breakfasts

Contact: Rev. David
aberlinde@myfairpoint.net

476-3065

Save the Date:
Chicken Pie Supper
September 29

Let's explore and write your Spiritual Autobiography!

A Summer Workshop Opportunity

A spiritual autobiography is the story of significant events, people and places that have influenced your relationship with God.

We will meet four times over eight weeks and dive deep into our personal journeys. Learn about each other's journey and come away with a deeper understanding of who we are in our relationship to God.

You will leave with a well written, very personal perspective on how your relationship with God was shaped and is still being shaped.

There is room for 6-8 people in this workshop. Please contact Jeffrey Tuper-Giles to sign up. 802.369.6122
Jeffrey.tupergiles@gmail.com

July 6, 20, August 3, 17

6:00 pm

BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WARNING

The Moderator of the Barre Congregational Church hereby calls for a special meeting of the Congregation following worship on July 16, 2017 to discuss plans and vote on whether or not to approve the costs to repair the church's current roof. The current low bid estimate is \$59,320. A complete description of the need and costs are to be shared at the special meeting. Fifty-one (51) members will need to attend this meeting to be declared as an official quorum. We hope you will find the time to stay for this discussion and vote.

Submitted by: Ernest Wheeler, Council Clerk

Letters to Campers

Campers love to get mail. Be the church and write a letter to a camper at Horton Center this summer. Ivey Morrison will be there July 16-22 and Leanna Copping will be at camp July 9-15. Address: Horton Center PO Box J, Gorham, NH 03581

The Next Book Study

Glorify by Rev. Emily Heath

We have scheduled a book study talk Wednesday, August 2 at 6:00 pm. Emily Heath was the keynote speaker at the VT Annual Conference and inspired those of us who attended. If you would like me to order a copy for you please email me at fowler5vt@gmail.com or contact Rev. David at the church office. We will meet at Rev. David's home and weather permitting we will be on the porch. Who should read this book?

- Progressive Christians who want to see the renewal of a vital, living church tradition.
- Spiritual seekers who want a faith that's both deeply rooted and radically relevant.
- Clergy and lay leaders who are re-examining their local church's priorities.
- Aspiring theologians (lay or ordained) who want an accessible book about practical Reformed theology.
- Anyone curious about what glorifying God might look like for a church culture on the verge of a major sea change.

Pop Up Summer Church School and Vacation Bible Camp

We had so much momentum at the end of the church school year that I've decided to offer a couple of opportunities for church school this summer. I'll be holding "**Pop Up Summer Church School**" on **July 2 and August 20**. No need to RSVP. We'll be doing some Vacation Bible School-style Sundays with songs and fun activities. If you aren't off enjoying our beautiful Vermont summers elsewhere, I'd love to see you and your children.

Also, I'm excited to announce that we will be holding a free summer Vacation Bible Camp on Tuesday, August 8 through Thursday, August 10 from 9 to noon. We will be partnering with other local churches to offer the children a variety of outdoor, cooperative games, science experiments, music and dance, bible stories and crafts. A healthy snack will be served daily. If transportation is an issue, please let me know. We are glad to help get any child to the church! All ages are welcome! Please RSVP to holliefriot@gmail.com or call me at 802-522-5921.

Aldrich Library Author Talk- July 12

Did you join us for last summer's author talk? We are going again this year as a group. On Wednesday, July 12, we will hear Nicole Grubman talk about I left my left sole in Vermont: a walker's journey and guide through Central Vermont back roads. We will meet at the church at 5:30 and attend as a group. We will come back to the church afterwards for dessert so make your favorite treat and bring it to share. Call Pam Murphy (814-244-5900) if interested.

BCC at the Concert in the Park-August 9

Bring your own picnic dinner and join us for a Concert in Currier Park on August 9 at 6 p.m. The Michele Fay Band will be performing at 7 p.m. The Michele Fay Band features original and Americana music that weaves together folk, swing, and bluegrass. Contact Hollie Friot at holliefriot@gmail.com with any questions.

SUMMER CALENDAR

For complete list of meetings and events check the google calendar on our website www.barrecongregational.org Any new events will be announced in the **weekly E-Window**

Union Services

July 30, Hedding Methodist, 10:00 am **August 27, Good Shepherd Episcopal, 10:00 am**

Special Services and Events

Sunday, July 2. 9:30 am **Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism**, Pop-Up Church School

Thursday, July 6, 6:00 pm **Spiritual Biography Workshop** begins (see article)

Wednesday, July 12, 5:30 pm **Aldrich Author Talk** and dessert (see article)

Sunday, July 16, 10:45 am, **Congregational Meeting**, (see Warning)

Wednesday, August 2, 6:00 pm, **Glorify Book Talk** (see article)

Tuesday-Thursday, August 8-10, **Vacation Bible Camp** (see article)

Wednesday August 9, 6:00 pm, **Concert and Picnic in the Park** (see article)

Sunday, August 20, 9:30 am **Worship and Pop-Up Church School** (see article)

