

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Convinced Part 3

Do you possess convictions?

In other words, what bedrock beliefs both inform and impact the manner in which you live? In this series we will explore an array of scriptural truths that should shape your life and living. Let us continue accordingly:

1) The Love of God

To what degree are you convinced of the love of God? Scripture ongoingly testifies to the affection God has for humanity. The following text timelessly articulates that affection, making it arguably the most well-known passage in the whole Bible:

John 3:16 (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I read the following anecdote many years ago. It yet resonates on this grand theme.

A certain medieval monk announced he would be preaching next Sunday evening on the love of God. As the shadows fell and the light ceased to come in through the cathedral windows, the congregation gathered. In the darkness of the altar, the monk lit a candle and carried it to the crucifix. First of all, he illuminated the crown of thorns, next, the two wounded hands, then the marks of the spear wound. In the hush that fell, he blew out the candle and left the chancel. There was nothing else to say.

2) The Forgiveness of God

To what degree are you convinced that God can and will pardon sin? Scripture continually attests to His forgiving nature.

Isaiah 1:18

18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson they shall be like wool."

There is an old account concerning Martin Luther. Namely, in a dream Luther found himself being attacked by the devil. Satan unrolled a long scroll containing a list of Luther's sins and held it before him. On reaching the end of the scroll Luther asked the devil, "Is that all?" "No," came the reply and a second scroll was thrust in front of him. Then, after a second came a third. But now Satan had no more. "You've forgotten something," Luther exclaimed triumphantly. "Quickly write on each of them, 'The blood of Jesus Christ God's son cleanses us from all sins.'"

3) The Hope of Life Eternal

To what degree are you persuaded that there is a hope beyond this life? Do you realize that Jesus promised such a hope?

John 14:2-3

2 "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Most people do not think often of eternity. Yet this does not negate

the reality we were made to live forever with Him! The following account, born of the life and experiences of W. B. Hinson, speaks to the wonder of everlasting life with God:

Thinking of the fullness and duration of this wonderful life, W. B. Hinson, a great preacher of a past generation, spoke from his own experience just before he died. He said, "I remember a year ago when a doctor told me, 'You have an illness from which you won't recover.' I walked out to where I live 5 miles from Portland, Oregon and I looked across at that mountain that I love. I looked at the river in which I rejoice and I looked at the stately trees that are always God's own poetry to my soul. Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamp and I said, 'I may not see you many more times, but Mountain, I shall be alive when you are gone; and River, I shall be alive when you cease running toward the sea; and Stars, I shall be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great down pulling of the material universe.'"

Have you cast yourself upon the love of God available in Christ Jesus, that you might know pardon and hope unto eternity? If so, revel in these realities and allow them to shape your life. If not, may this be the day of your salvation. Come to Jesus.

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

Twenty second Sunday after Pentecost Second Stewardship Sunday

"We are Grateful to God..."

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com. Scripture Reading: Colossians 3 v 12 - 17

I. Introduction

Some of us had the privilege to be raised by our biological parents, and some of us may have been adopted by caring parents; some of us may have lost a parent or both in life, and some of us may have been raised by an adult in the family, an aunt or uncle or grandparents.

Then there are some of us who have been in foster homes or have had to find ways to be in this life without the care of an adult. Whatever our circumstances are or were, somewhere in life, I hope, we have found someone, an adult person or persons, who have gone out of their way to love us and care for us.

And those are the people whom we are grateful for in this life for loving us, holding us close, listen-

ing to us, counseling us, guiding us and setting us on our way to live a life that is meaningful and filled with hope, and not despair. Whoever these people are or were in our lives, who gave us their all, in their own brokenness, we have the opportunity to thank them for what they have done for us.

II. We are Grateful to God

I was contemplating this, in reading this letter from Paul to the Colossians, where he counsels the congregation about their behaviors, but at the same time encouraging them to always be thankful to God. He urged them to rid themselves from the things that are not acceptable in God's eyes, such as anger, rage, malice, slander and so forth, and instead, to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

And then he tells them more than once to be thankful to God, to be a thankful people, and to show their gratitude towards God for all that God has done for them. They have received their sanctification through the greatest gift of all, which is the gift of God's Son, who died for them and their sins. This Son of God came from the bosom of God to this earth to love, show compassion for humanity, teach, minister and heal the sick and the brokenhearted.

And so, he called them to be thankful and to submit to the Lordship of God, and God's Son. God, our heavenly Parent, sent us God's only Son, to be our Brother, our Lord, our Friend and more. Paul then tells them to let the word of Christ dwell in them richly, and to teach and admonish one another with Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Through their singing and worshipping they acknowledge their dependence on God's grace through Christ.

III. Conclusion

While we show our gratitude to the ones who have cared for us in this life, the church of God is the place where we come together as a community of faith to express our gratitude for God's love, blessings, mercy and compassion in our lives. We come in humility to thank God for all of this, and to be renewed every time together as a community of faith.

We are broken people who need God's help for our own salvation, our healing, and our inner restoration. We are blessed to have a God who listens when we pray, and who comforts us when we are heartbroken. And so... we come together to worship God through teaching and learning and singing together. In gratitude we build our church together in love, peace, kindness and humility and we rid ourselves from the things that hurt God and others.

This is the heart of the child of God that makes God happy. We must never take for granted God's love for us, and our church, which is a gift from God, with Jesus Christ as the Head. May God help us to always look to God for everything, in humility and gratitude.

Amen

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

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

bid for services.

"We're not seeing huge increases with our fuel costs for the two schools," he said.

McCormick said the school district still has some work to do with the budget, and he welcomed ideas

and input from the town.

"We've done a pretty good job in the last couple years of looking at what grant opportunities can we utilize to bring additional funding for some of our programs, but that's not a way that we can fully balance a budget," he said.

McCormick said there's been discussion for the past couple of years about the possibility of hav-

ing an override to help balance the town's budget. He said if it's something the town wants to explore, the committees should begin conversations soon.

McCormick said an override would impact the entire town's budget, not just the school district's.

"It's a conversation that the town needs to have," Canada said.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

men that on average, volunteer firefighters in the department, are trained and burnt out in five years. He said that while overall morale is good, many firefighters coming on board do not realize that joining the department is like taking on another demanding part-time job that will absorb most of their free time.

"Sholem Aleichem, Sholem Aleichem, Sholem, Aleichem" Walking down the halls of Quabbin High these days, one hears the strains of this familiar song of peace rising from the auditorium. In unison, the cast members of "Fiddler on the Roof" raise their collective voices in a sort of theme song taught to them by Set Director Phil Katz. Those familiar with the tunes from Fiddler, however, know that "Sholem Aleichem" is not one of them.

38 years (Oct. 30, 1986)

The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen held their weekly meeting on Oct. 23 with the main topic of discussion being the Sewer Moratorium, recently passed by the Selectmen. In fairness to all concerned concerned it was decided that any person in the process of building a dwelling with the permission of the building inspector before June 30, 1987 will be allowed to tie into the existing sewer lines.

The Women's Fellowship of St. Thomas-a-Becket Church in South Barre are busily getting ready for their Christmas Bazaar to be held in the church hall on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Suzette Dubois-Wrtrwal, Ann Marie Collette and Debbie Goldsmith are chairpersons of the event. Features of the bazaar will be Christmas crafts, cheese and

cider table, baked goods, penny candy and coffee with doughnuts will be served early in the day, followed by soup and homemade breads. Santa Claus will make his appearance about noon and spend a couple of hours at the event so pictures can be taken of children with him.

Local representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau will revisit selected area households beginning Nov. 3 to conduct its Survey of Income and Program Participation, Arthur G. Dukakis, Director of the bureau's Boston Regional Office, announced Oct. 20. SIPP is a major nationwide continuing survey introduced in the fall of 1983. It is one of the nation's largest household surveys with about 25,000 households participating. The Census Bureau publishes periodic reports providing information from the survey.

Obituaries

Diane F. Purcell, 75

EAST GRANBY, CT – Diane F. Purcell, 75, of East Granby, Connecticut and formerly of Hardwick, unexpectedly passed away April 22, 2024.

She leaves her daughter, Christine M. Wilson and her husband Todd of Hardwick and son, William M. Purcell, Jr. and his wife Jennifer of Virginia Beach, Virginia, as well as six grandchildren, Jack, Zack, Luke, Cole, William III, and Samuel. She also leaves her brother, Walter Senkow and his wife Pam of Sellersville, Pennsylvania, along with her nephews; Jacob and his wife Laura, and Jedediah. As well as her great nieces and many cousins.

She was predeceased by her granddaughter, Meghan Arlene.



Diane was born in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Walter S. and Arlene (Burkhardt) Senkow.

Diane worked for the United States Post Office for over 30 years. She began her career as a part time clerk, moving to a full time position in Barre and later becoming the Postmaster in Oakham. After several years of serving as Postmaster in Oakham, she moved to Vermont and was the Postmaster in Manchester Center.

She continued to grow in her career within the USPS and moved to Connecticut and held the position of Function 4 Coordinator in West Windsor, Connecticut where she was responsible for retail auditing and

DEATH NOTICES

Purcell (Senkow), Diane F.
Died April 22, 2024
Service will be private at a later date

Purcell, William M.
Died May 10, 2024
Funeral Service
Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.
First Universalist Church
in Hardwick

mail processing center for the NorthEast area before retiring.

In her retirement she enjoyed spending time with her family, gardening, reading, volunteering at a local thrift store, cooking and baking and playing online Scrabble with her cousin, Caroline. Diane will be greatly missed by all who knew her and will forever be in our heart.

A private service will be held at a later date.

William M. Purcell, 79

EAST LONGMEADOW – William M. Purcell, 79, of East Longmeadow and formerly of Hardwick, passed away May 10, 2024 at the East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center following a brief battle with brain cancer (Glioblastoma).

He leaves his wife of 16 years, My Liem Thi Vo; his daughter, Christine M. Wilson and her husband Todd of Hardwick; two sons, William M. Purcell, Jr. and his wife Jennifer of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Tom Vo Purcell of East Longmeadow as well as six grandchildren, Jack, Zack, Luke, Cole, William III, and Samuel, along with his nieces and nephews. He also leaves his two sisters, Kathleen Purcell of Wilmington, Delaware, and

Jeanne Smith and her husband Mark of West Dennis. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Meghan Arlene, as well as his sister Patrice Ladley and his two brothers, James and Jack Purcell. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of the late Ernest and Mae (O'Neill) Purcell.

Purcell is a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War and remained active in Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations.

William worked as a sales representative for Welding Supply Distribution Companies for sev-



eral years prior to retiring. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends and traveling.

Funeral services will be held Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. in Hardwick at the First Universalist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hyman Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306 (online at <https://t2t.org>).

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware, is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at CharbonneauFH.com.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

own self-perpetuating garden.

You can also incorporate chopped leaves right into the vegetable garden each fall. The use of a rototiller makes this job a snap.

Most will have decomposed by spring, but till the garden again a month or so before planting to finish the job.

Chopped leaves make a great addition to the compost pile.

Layer brown, carbon rich ingredients (such as chopped leaves) with green, nitrogen rich ingredients (such as grass clippings, vegetable scraps, non-weedy plant parts) together to get the pile cooking. Add a shovel full of garden soil or finished compost per layer to inoculate it with microbes and water well.

Let the pile sit for a year or turn it frequently for faster results. Compost is a near neutral source of humus, a well-balanced fertilizer and soil tonic, good for all types of gardens and even the lawn.

If you are too busy to layer and shredding sounds like a messy job, simply pile the leaves, moistening as you go. The resulting leaf mold is another healthy addition to the garden.

Research has proven that members of the cabbage family respond especially well to this type of humus. Keep in mind that oak leaves are more acidic than other leaves of trees native to our area.

If you use more of these in any of your gardening situations, adjust liming accordingly.

So get out the rake and improve your landscape!!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.]]]]

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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice 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.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.newspapers.turley.com

Congregational church to hold drive thru dinner

BARRE – The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold a drive thru roast pork dinner on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 5-5:30 p.m.

The menu includes roast pork, salad, potato, vegetable and dessert. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$5 per child under 12. People should RSVP by calling 978-355-4041 and leave a message on the church's answering machine or call Lisa Holloway, 978-355-0140. The dinner is a fundraiser for the church.

Public Notices

TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Hubbardston Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:30 PM** at the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main Street. The hearing will dis-

cuss agenda items for the **Special Town Meeting on November 19, 2024**. Public input is encouraged.

For more information, contact the Town Administrator's Office at 978-928-1400 or email admin@hubbardstonma.gov.

10/24/2024

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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Barre Gazette