

# FAITH



# FORWARD

## Bar Mills Community Church

13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton, Maine 04093 / P.O. Box 424, Bar Mills, Maine 04004/ 207-929-3535

[www.barmillscommunitychurch.org](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org)

### Committing to Community in Christ

When I was younger, I struggled with the idea of church membership. I was an active attender, highly involved in the youth programs and served in various other areas. I thought of membership as a construct created by people that held no theological basis. It seemed as though a person became a church member to be a part of an exclusive club, giving them a position of power to flaunt over others. As I reflect on church membership now, I realize that it is much more than the joining of a club or community group.

Being a member of a local church is committing yourself to a community in Christ. By joining the church in membership, we are declaring that we commit to gathering, praying, sharing, giving, and serving together. We are responsible to each other to love, serve and encourage one another. The church is a community of imperfect people serving our perfect Savior, and supporting each other along the journey of faith.

While the term "church membership" is not found in scripture, the concept of committing yourself to a community in Christ is evident. At the end of Ephesians 2, Paul shares how we are being built together into a holy temple "with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone... for God's dwelling in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:20-22, CSB)." I believe this metaphor of membership connects to our vision, Building Meaning through Christian Community. As a church, we are inviting Jesus to build us into Christian community being guided by his Spirit. As church members, we are committing our individual selves to being built together into that "holy temple."

In March, we will begin a sermon series on church membership. We will discuss how, as members of Bar Mills Community Church, God is building us together to comfort, grow, serve, give, workshop, and share together.

Here is the schedule for the series:

**March 6:** Built Together (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Church membership is being built together into God's Holy Temple

**March 13:** Comfort Together (2 Corinthians 1:3-7) [Caring]

Church members comfort others as they have been comforted

**March 20:** Grow Together (Ephesians 4: 11-6) [Discipleship]

Church members are growing together into spiritual maturity

**March 27:** Serve Together (Hebrews 10: 22-25) (Mission and ministry)

Church members are encouraging each other to love and serve.

**April 3:** Give Together (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) (Time, Talent, & Tithes)

Church members are giving cheerfully to God their time, talents, and tithes.

**April 10:** Worship Together (Psalm 100) (Palm Sunday)

Church members worship together in gladness and thanksgiving

**April 17:** Sharing Together (Romans 10:9-15) (Evangelism – Easter)

Church members are sharing the good news of the resurrection

**April 24:** Committing Together

Wednesday Bible Studies will dive deeper into these themes. Consider joining us at 1:30 in person (at the church) or at 6:30 on Zoom.

At the end of the series, you will be invited to become a member or renew your membership in our church. The essentials for membership include being in a committed relationship with Jesus Christ, proclaiming your faith through baptism, and a commitment to being active in the life of our church. If you have not been baptized, we are hoping to have a special baptism service on April 24. If you desire to be baptized and proclaim your faith, then please reach out and let me know.

I know for some of you, there are questions and concerns about membership. Reach out to me and we can set up a time to talk about membership and your involvement at Bar Mills Community Church. It is my hope that God will use this series to strengthen and unify our congregation and prepare us for the next steps he has for our church family.

Together In Christ,  
Dave Reiss, Pastor

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### **World Vision- The Global 6K for Water**

On May 21, BMCC will be hosting a 6K (3.7 mile) walk/run. This event is a fundraiser for World Vision, a Christian organization that serves as the hands and feet of Jesus in communities around the world, working to end poverty and injustice. This run, called the Global 6k, is designed to raise money and awareness for people who have little access to clean water. Many people groups around the world must walk this distance daily to provide water for themselves and their families. This limits children's access to education and hygiene.

Two years ago, I participated in my own private 6K and invited people to support me in this cause. I woke up early to avoid the hot Texas sun and ran the allotted distance around my neighborhood. It was a rewarding experience, but also lonely. This year, I want to invite you to join me in making a difference for people around the world.

On May 21, we will run one big circle that starts and stops at our church. This is a great activity to invite people you know to join. We will be making registration forms available at the church, or people can register online, [global6k.worldvision.org/team/34313](https://global6k.worldvision.org/team/34313). Each registration costs \$50, which goes directly to providing clean water to someone in a developing country.

If you do not feel you are able to participate physically, you can still donate to the cause or help with logistics. We will also be looking for people to coordinate the event and encourage our runners. Wanda Rounds and I have begun working on this. We plan to invite local runners and school groups to participate.

One of the powerful things about the Global 6k is that each runner will get a unique race bib with a picture of a child that can be sponsored through World Vision. These pictures are a great reminder of why we are doing this event, and give people a chance to make a difference in the lives of children around the world. The children on the bib are part of the World Vision sponsorship program, and \$39 a month can make a world of difference.

I am super excited about the opportunity we have at Bar Mills Community Church to bring hope into our world, as well as connecting with people in our own community. Please pray and see how God will use you in this event. Let's aim for 100% participation from our church family!

## Bible Study

We are now offering two Bible Study options on Wednesdays.

1. Our in-person gathering will meet at the church at 1:30 pm.
2. Our Zoom gathering will meet at 6:30 pm.

Please join us each week as we gather together (in person or via Zoom) to glorify God through fellowship with one another and to study God's Word.

In March, we will address what it means to be a church member. The apostle Paul explains how members of a church are like parts of a body (1 Corinthians 12:12). Each member brings their own gifts to the church. These gifts are what make their congregation unique. Every person at Bar Mills Community Church brings their uniqueness to our congregation, which is what makes our church special. It is by bringing yourself - all that you are - into our church family and allowing God to shape us by his love and grace, that we will begin to become a church that is building meaning through Christian community.

## Prayer Time

Our world is full of war and strife, seeming to have one conflict arise after another, but we can always turn to God to change our situation.

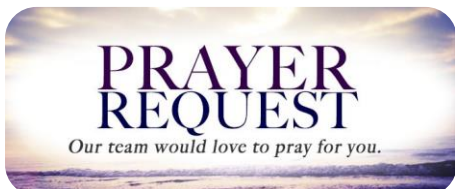
### **A Prayer for Grace to Lay Down Arms and Togetherness**

Oh Lord, as we work together to build your empire, let us be the light that leads the world to you.  
You know that there are people in this world who live to see others suffer. They seek to destroy and kill.  
Lord, faithfully change their hearts so that will want to lay down their arms,  
so that peace may prosper in all lands.

God, teach us to be good role models to these people and others in our lives who have not yet found their way to you, so that when they see you and your love within us, they would want to know you more and more.  
God grant us the patience to work together, bring us all together as a family. Let us work together with understanding and compassion in our hearts as we light the way to your heavenly kingdom. Amen

### **A Prayer for Those Families Living and Caring for a Dementia Patient**

Give me the strength and perseverance when grief overcomes me to withstand the loss of my loved one twice;  
to endure patiently when he/she no longer recognizes me, when I am seen as a stranger or foe,  
when I must realize the slow passing away of a person I once knew and still love;  
and finally, give me the grace and fortitude for that final goodbye  
so that I might have peace and promise in my loved one's physical death  
when my loved one is joined with Christ in a new, eternal life.



### ***Please Contact:***

Dave A. Reiss, Pastor  
pastordave.BMCC@gmail.com  
cell: 207-804-0541 church: 207-929-3535

## Masking Updated Policy

Hello Church Family,

I wanted to bring you up to date with a discussion the Council had on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding our mask policy at BMCC. At our February meeting we had decided to no longer require masks starting in March. After announcing that one Sunday some people asked us to revisit that conversation. After several conversations and prayerful consideration we unanimously voted to adopt the following policy.

“Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, the church masking policy is being updated. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup> we will rely on CDC guidelines for our masking policy. According to current CDC guidelines, the BMCC council strongly recommends wearing a mask when inside the church.” Here is the link to the CDC guidelines [www.maine.gov/covid19](http://www.maine.gov/covid19).

We know that masking is a delicate issue for many people. We ask that you remember others and their health needs and comfort level.

Thank you, Pastor Dave Reiss & The BMCC Council

## Mission for March

Thanks to **America for Christ (AFC) Offering** contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) supported communities distressed by the devastation of COVID-19 last year, as the pandemic swept our country and Puerto Rico. We also helped families who lost homes to floods, wildfires and storms, along with children living on the edge because of poverty, and seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News. These are just a few of the ways we minister to those in need; there are many more.

Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children and Jesus’ disciples in 2022 by supporting this year’s America for Christ Offering. Consider making a generous gift!

“I will praise you and testify about what you have done.” PSALM 22:22  
**“TESTIMONY”**



**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2022**

**PLEASE GIVE TODAY!** | [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)





# Take Out Lunch



Choose One Entrée and One Soup

All meals include dessert



Entrée



Entrée



Soup



Soup

## March 9, 2022

### Bar Mills Community Church

13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton, Maine / [www.barmillscommunitychurch.org](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org)

To Place Order Contact:

Judy @ 929-5555 / [judysjul@gmail.com](mailto:judysjul@gmail.com)

Place Order By: Monday, March 7, 2022

\$10

Donation  
Welcomed

Come Join Us!

"So, whether you  
eat or drink  
or whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God."  
1 Corinthians 10:31

## Free Community Supper

Saturday,  
March 26, 2022

We start Serving at 5:00 pm

Bar Mills Community Church

13 Hermit Thrush Drive

Buxton, Maine 04093

(207) 929-3535

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# Let's Do It

EVERY STEP YOU TAKE  
IS ONE THEY WON'T HAVE TO

Join the world's largest 6K for water—from wherever you are!

**Family fun. Global impact.**

The Global 6K is great because you can do it anywhere! Walk or run the distance, by yourself or with your family, and be part of this global movement to change lives. Whether you join from the treadmill or your favorite trail, the neighborhood or the track... when you and thousands of others around the world walk, jog, or stroller-run your way to 6K on May 21, 2022, you'll bring life-changing clean water to those who need it most.

With World Vision's Global 6K, you can join thousands, walking or running from your own space to bring clean water to children in need. Now more than ever, clean water is essential to protect vulnerable children and families.

Will you join us?

Saturday, May 21, 2022 @ 8:00 am  
Bar Mills Community Church  
13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton, Maine 04093

## Mission Updates!

**January Mission-** We collected 394 pair of socks that were donated to the *Preble Street Resource Center and Friendship House*.

**February Mission** – We collected \$178 in cash donations and 100 food items for the *Buxton Community Cupboard*.

**February Free Community Supper-** Hawaiian Theme. This month we tried to think warm thoughts so we wore our Hawaiian outfits and sported the Hawaiian lei. We enjoyed a nice ham dinner to keep with the theme.

Our next Free Supper is March 26<sup>th</sup>. (See flyer in this newsletter)  
Hope to see you there!





# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 1:30 pm In person Bible Study 6:30 pm- Zoom Bible Study	3	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship Service	7 7:00 pm AA Meeting	8 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9 11:30 am Take Out Lunch  1:30 pm In person Bible Study 6:30 pm- Zoom Bible Study	10 7:00 pm Buxton Garden Club	11	12
13 10:00 am Worship Service	14 7:00 pm AA Meeting	15	16 1:30 pm In person Bible Study 6:30 pm- Zoom Bible Study	17  HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19
20 10:00 am Worship Service	21 7:00 pm AA Meeting	22	23 1:30 pm In person Bible Study 6:30 pm- Zoom Bible Study	24	25	26 5:00 pm Free Supper
27 10:00 am Worship Service	28 7:00 pm AA Meeting	29	30	31		