

# A Guide to Faith Formation & Youth Ministry at BCCUCC 2023-2024



The Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
is a Christian community that worships God,  
embraces all people, ministers to one another,  
works for justice and peace,  
and renders loving service to God's world.

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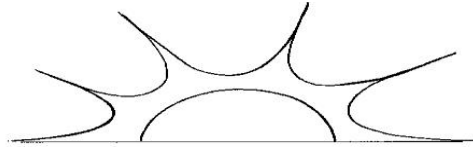
#### Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Team Members:

Fred Rocco  
Kathy Sullivan  
Cathleen Joachim  
Ralph Milliken  
Tim Milisauskas

*If you're interested in serving on the team, we'd love to have you join us. Contact Racquel or Andrea for more information.*

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This guide is also available online from the church school page of our website at [www.bccucc.org/children-youth/](http://www.bccucc.org/children-youth/). Printed copies are available from various locations at church including outside Andrea's office. If you'd like to share one with a friend, we'll be happy to give you more copies for you to pass along.



September 2023

Faith Formation of young people involves partnerships between many individuals: parents, church members, children, youth, lay leaders, ministers, and staff. While faith education happens every day at home, we also know how important it is that Sunday mornings anchor children, youth, and families in faith.

Please take some time to review this helpful guide. It includes important information about upcoming events and how you can participate in Faith Formation and Youth Ministry (FFaYM) programs.

See you at church!

With joy,

Andrea Bullard  
Faith Formation Director

Racquel Ray  
Associate Minister

### **FFaYM Mission Statement**

The purpose of the work of the Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Team of the Barrington Congregational Church UCC is to provide a safe space for children, youth, and adults to:

- worship and wonder
- play and pray
- share and serve
- learn, lament, laugh and LOVE!

We seek to create community where children, youth, and their caregivers experience acceptance and belonging. We are dedicated to providing a place where young people can develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally into all God calls them to be now and in the future.

## **Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Team**

### **Goals for Educating our Children and Youth**

- **Nursery:** Loving care is provided to all children ages 0-3 years. (see page 7)
- **PreK – 1<sup>st</sup> grade:** All children will wonder about core stories from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), New Testament, and the origins of Christian traditions, including the sacraments of Baptism and Communion through the Godly Play program. (see page 9)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grades:** The Deep Blue Rotation Stations curriculum, which this group will be using, captures the imagination of the children by bringing the Bible to life. (see page 9)
- **5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:** This group will be exploring the Bible and how individual stories fit together into larger biblical themes using the Connect curriculum. (see page 10)
- **Grade 8 and up:** Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward adulthood in which an individual takes responsibility for shaping his/her own values and faith. Confirmation is offered every other year alternating with OWL. (see page 10)
- **1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Sing and Celebrate Choir is our children's choir that sings in worship several times a year. The choir is looking forward to welcoming any children who would like to sing with them. (see page 8)
- **Youth in Grades 5-8** are encouraged to participate in Youth Group (YG) for fellowship, service projects, social and faith development. (see page 11)
- **Youth Grades 9-12** are encouraged to volunteer by assisting in the nursery and classrooms, with choir, with FFaYM events such as Advent Arts and Lenten Lalapalooza, and by preparing for and participating in mission trips. (see pages 14). The Associate Minister is also available for Coffee Chats at a local café.
- **The FFaYM Team** has implemented Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education (OWL) for Grades 7 - 12. It is offered every other year. In 2023-2024, youth in Grades 7 -10 are invited to participate in the OWL program. (see page 12)

## OPEN DOORS SUNDAY



**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**WORSHIP AT 10 AM**

Be sure to come back home for 'Open Doors Sunday' on **September 10<sup>th</sup>**! Whether we call it Gathering, Homecoming, or any other Sunday, it's the day we welcome back our families (of all types and sizes) and kick off our new program year!

It's also a day that we especially open our doors to visitors and newcomers who are looking to start the school year off by finding a new church. So be sure to invite your neighbors and friends!



Open Doors Sunday will be a blast with a family-friendly inter-generational worship service at **10 a.m.** followed by hot dogs and ice cream. We will also have an inflatable slide and bouncy house.



So come home and join us for the worship service specially designed for all ages and reconnect with your church family. We're looking forward to seeing you!



### **Schedule for Open Doors Sunday - September 10<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. **ALL AGES WORSHIP SERVICE** and Dedication of the Volunteers who work with our children and youth. Guest musicians will be 'Bare Bones Big Band'. Nursery Care is provided.

After Worship: **REGISTRATION FOR CHURCH SCHOOL, YOUTH GROUP AND OWL** will take place in Fellowship Hall.

After Worship: **FELLOWSHIP, FOOD AND FUN** over in Fellowship Hall the Terrace and Playground. (see above)

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **OWL PARENT ORIENTATION** (see page 12)

## Sunday Mornings at BCCUCC GENERAL INFORMATION

### Church School Registration

We require that a registration form be completed for EACH CHILD who participates in our FFaYM programs.

To register a child, please obtain a registration form from the church office, download one from the website at <https://bccucc.org/children-youth/> or pick one up from the registration table in Fellowship Hall on **Sept 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>**.



If you registered your child last year all you have to do is update last year's form at registration.

Information you provide helps us provide safe and welcoming programs for children and youth. Thank you!

***Regular Church School classes begin on  
Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.***

### Is there a registration fee for Church School?

Everyone is welcome to participate in church school programs regardless of economic status, ability to contribute, or amount of pledge. We do not charge a registration fee. However, in addition to countless volunteer hours, church members and friends prayerfully discern an amount to contribute to the church in the form of a pledge to the annual budget (the budget includes building expenses, church staff, outreach, and education programs). Please call the church office if you'd like to begin making a pledge or would like to give an additional donation directly to Faith Formation programs.

While we do not charge a monetary fee, we expect parents to participate in the classrooms in various volunteer capacities. **Every week it takes at least 8 volunteers to conduct church school.** If every family were to fill several of these slots throughout the year, we would be blessed. For volunteer training information, please see *Volunteering at BCCUCC* on page 13 of this handbook.

## How Church School Happens

- Come on Sunday morning for 10 a.m. worship;
- Bring children age 4 or older to worship for the first part of the service which includes a 'Children's Message'. Parents may bring younger children directly to the Nursery, located in the education building, prior to 10 a.m.
- After the 'Children's Message', **the children will meet their teachers or assistants in the vestry downstairs and be escorted to the Education Building;**
- Church school rooms are divided by age groups. Lessons finish at approximately 11:10 a.m. to allow time for parents to transition from worship. **Parents are asked to pick-up children directly from classrooms** at 11:10 when the lesson has concluded. Children will not be released to roam the halls without parent pick-up. Please be mindful about not disturbing the class until the lesson has ended. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

## All Ages Worship Services

On select Sundays throughout the year (Sep. 10<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>, & May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024), we will be having our All Ages Worship Services.



These services will be specially designed to be multigenerational and child-friendly opportunities to spend the entire worship time together. Church school will not be offered, but there will be special opportunities for the children to participate in or even help lead worship. Nursery care will be available for the littlest ones. We really encourage you to attend these services as they are wonderful chances to praise God together in a family friendly way!

## Nursery Care ~ Birth to Three Years Old



Christian nurture is provided every Sunday morning in our nursery for the youngest among us. Please note that nursery volunteers will find parents if a diaper needs to be changed or for any other reason deemed necessary.

## Communion Sundays

On the first Sunday of every month, we share communion together in the sanctuary. All children and adults are welcome to participate and receive communion.



## Baptism

Please contact the church office or speak with the ministers if you are interested in having your infant or child baptized.

## Offering

We believe it is important that children learn the importance of stewardship of church & community. Offerings from the children are received in your child's classroom in a special offering box, or can be put in the offering plate in worship on Sundays when there isn't Church School. Children's offering envelopes will be given out when parents register their child(ren) for church school or by request from Andrea. Each year, the proceeds help to support a charity selected by the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Team in partnership with the congregation. The 2023-2024 offering will be used to support an orphanage in Africa with which we have a connection.



## SING & CELEBRATE CHOIR



The Sing and Celebrate choir is BCCUCC's children's choir for children in grades 1-5. This is a wonderful way for young people to learn to sing in a group and to actively participate in the worship service.

If your child is interested in joining this growing group of children who like to sing, please contact Andrea, Rev. Racquel, or the church office. Rehearsals are held after the worship service in Room 6 (dates tba).

More information about the children's choir can be obtained by contacting our Music Director, Matthew Marion or Kate Colby.



## PRE K - 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE



**Godly Play** teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence & liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Godly Play...

- ...is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture.
- ...is based on long established, tried, and tested approaches.
- ...encourages participants to make meaning for themselves by inviting them into stories and providing the opportunity for them to connect the stories with their personal experience.
- ...is a non-coercive way to encourage people to move into larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering questions and open-ended response time.
- ...values process, openness and discovery.
- ...respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God.

Visit [www.godlyplayfoundation.org](http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org) to learn more.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

The 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade group will be immersed in the Bible stories by using the **Deep Blue Rotation Stations** Curriculum. By using a rotation format where the children alternate between learning stations each week, they are engaged in Bible stories and characters through art, cooking, games, missions, storytelling/drama, and spiritual practices. Each story will remain the same for three Sundays, but the children will encounter it in three different ways through the different stations. Repetition is an important part of Deep Blue.



## 5<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES



A Bible-centered curriculum, **Connect**, takes 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders on a journey through the Old Testament and New Testament exploring the connections between several stories each week. Every lesson follows a three-part sequence: see, explore, and more. The children focus on and reinforce a theme by exploring biblical text and creating projects that range from games to art and more.

Curriculum alternates between Old Testament one year and New Testament the next. In 2023-2024 the Old Testament will be explored.

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Grades 8 and 9



Confirmation marks a step in the spiritual journey when a young person takes responsibility for shaping their own values and faith, with support from a community of faith. Confirmation is offered every other year alternating with the OWL program.

Confirmation will be offered again by Rev. Racquel Ray in the 2024-2025 program year.

# YOUTH GROUP

Grades 5 - 8

The Youth Group will gather most weeks throughout the year on **Mondays** from **6 - 7pm**.



Youth Group is an opportunity for our Middle School students to build communities with their age peers and outside of school. Meetings will consist of fun and fellowship, simple dinner (usually pizza and please bring a refillable water bottle from home for the drink), and a closing prayer service. When the weather permits, we will meet on the terrace, labyrinth, and playground. We do not meet if Barrington Public Schools have a day off.

Dates to save for Youth Group are:

- Registration after Worship on Open Doors Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup>
- September 18<sup>th</sup> Youth Group Kick-Off with campfire
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>
- November 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>
- December 4<sup>th</sup> Youth Quiet Day Retreat, Sanctuary, 6-7pm
- December 11<sup>th</sup> Trip to La Sallette Shrine time TBD
- January 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>
- February 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>
- March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>
- April 8<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>
- May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- June 10<sup>th</sup> End of Year Celebration Campfire

Please contact Rev. Racquel Ray with any questions you may have. [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 104.

# OUR WHOLE LIVES — SEXUALITY & OUR FAITH

Offered in 2023-2024  
for Grades 7 - 10

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of comprehensive sexuality education resources written by human sexuality educators appropriate for use in a variety of congregational, school, and community settings. Core values of OWL include self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity.



The OWL trained facilitators are all church members and are certified.

For more information or to sign up, contact Andrea Bullard at [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or at (401) 246-0111 x107.

## **OWL Parent Orientation:**

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
11:45 am – 12:45 pm Library

## **OWL Sessions:**

Sunday mornings on the dates listed below  
9 am – 12:15 pm Library

- September 24<sup>th</sup> Ice breaker, Lessons 1 & 2
- October 15<sup>th</sup> Lessons 3, 4 & 5
- November 12<sup>th</sup> Lessons 6, 7 & 8
- December 10<sup>th</sup> Lessons 9, 10 & 11
- January 21<sup>st</sup> Lessons 12, 13 & 14
- February 11<sup>th</sup> Lessons 15, 16 & 17
- March 17<sup>th</sup> Lessons 18, 19 & 20
- April 7<sup>th</sup> Lessons 21, 22 & 23
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Lessons 24 & 25 and celebration!

## VOLUNTEERING AT BCCUCC FFAYM PROGRAMS

It really does 'take a village' to nurture Christian faith in children and young people. We hope and expect that parents, caregivers, and other interested adults in the church community will offer their time and talents throughout the program year. We help provide you with the information and resources that you'll need to enjoy the experience and grow in faith.

If you're interested in volunteering in Church School, or have questions, please contact our Faith Formation Director, Andrea Bullard, at [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 107. For volunteering with Youth Group, please contact Rev. Racquel Ray at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 104.

**Every volunteer that works with children & youth is asked to fill out a Volunteer Application Form.** You can download the form from our website at <https://bccucc.org/children-youth/> or pick one up from outside Andrea's office.

A **Mandatory Meeting** for all volunteers working with children and youth will be held on **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 11:30 am in Room 6. All volunteers should plan to attend.

For more information please contact Andrea Bullard at [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 ext 107.



## MISSION TRIP

We were unable to have the Mission Trip to Puerto Rico in June of 2020 due to the pandemic. As global communities are still experienced shifting safety protocols around the virus, we will tentatively consider resuming mission trips. Local missions may be accessible and easier to plan. We may be able to narrow our focus to those areas of need. We will need community volunteers to organize local missions for 2024-2025 and vision projects for 2025-2026 and beyond.

If you are interested in planning mission ministries, please contact Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org).



## LOCAL MISSION

We partner with Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island, We Share Hope, and DelSesto Middle School to provide support for underserved students, in the form of the LFRI Backpack Program. Usually meeting at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month throughout the school year, children and youth may join the volunteer team led by Jay and Phyllis Buckley to pack bags of groceries donated by the congregation and We Share Hope for delivery to DelSesto Middle School in Providence. To volunteer to help pack the bags, please contact Racquel [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or Jay and Phyllis Buckley [pbuckley6@cox.net](mailto:pbuckley6@cox.net)

BCCUCC's Mission and Justice Team is also a good resource for local mission work. Throughout the year they offer opportunities for making Peace Flags, Pollinator Garden, The Giving Tree, The Mitten Tree, and more. To volunteer to help BCCUCC's Mission & Justice Team contact Rev. Racquel [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or Nancy Arena [nancy.arena@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com)

# SAFETY AT BCCUCC

## Fire Drill Procedure

- Feel the door for heat. If cool, open slightly and observe corridor conditions.
- Take a head count and have children line up.
- Take the attendance book with you and proceed to the nearest exit as outlined in the fire escape plan in the classroom.
- If there is smoke, stay as close to the floor as possible.
- Make sure that everyone stays together.
- Exit the building and proceed to the parking lot.
- Do a follow-up head count.
- Hold all children until the parents have come to pick them up.

## Safe Space Policies

- Two Adult Rule: No teacher or assistant should place themselves be alone with a child or children. At least one teacher and one assistant must be present in the classroom every Sunday and at every youth event. Adults must be unrelated.
- All volunteers working with children and youth at BCCUCC are required to attend Safe Space Training and participate in background checks. See Andrea for this process.
- No teacher or assistant shall be alone with a child in a bathroom with the door closed. If a teacher or assistant accompanies a child to the bathroom, they should remain outside the bathroom while the child is inside. The bathroom door must remain open at all times.
- If a child needs to leave the classroom for any reason, they must pair up with another child of the same gender. No child is permitted to walk in the halls alone.

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*Stay tuned throughout the year for more information about children and youth programs at BCCUCC via email, the eBridge newsletter, and the worship bulletin announcements.*