# A Guide to
# Faith Formation &
# Youth Ministry at BCCUCC
# 2026-2027



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.

Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
461 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806
office@bccucc.org www.bccucc.org
www.facebook.com/bccucc
401.246.0111

# OUR MINISTERS & STAFF

*

| | |
|---|---|
| Interim Senior Minister | The Rev. Joseph Zarro<br>joe@bccucc.org |
| Associate Minister | The Rev. Racquel Ray<br>racquel@bccucc.org |
| Faith Formation Director | Andrea Terni<br>andrea@bccucc.org |
| Organist/Choir Director | Matthew Marion<br>mmarion@gmail.com |
| Office Administrator | Sara Bagwell<br>office@bccucc.org |
| Financial Secretary | Patricia Stoddard<br>pat@bccucc.org |

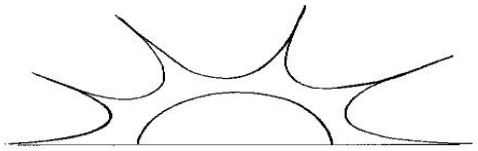
*

Faith Formation Ministry Teams

Church School Team
Nursery Team
Confirmation Team
O.W.L Team
Adult Formation Team

*If you're interested in serving on a team, we would love to have you join us. Contact Andrea for more information.*

Extra copies of this guide are available online (www.bccucc.org) or at the church office. If you'd like to share one with a friend, please let us know and we'll be happy to give you more copies for you to pass along.



September 2026

Faith Formation of young people involves partnerships between many individuals: parents, church members, children and 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 Ministry (FFM) programs.

See you at church!

With joy,



Andrea Terni
Faith Formation Director

**FFM Mission Statement**

The purpose of the work of the Faith Formation 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

## Goals for Educating our Children and Youth

- Nursery: Loving care is provided to all children ages 0-3 years. (see page 7)

- PreK – 2nd 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)

- 3rd – 5th 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)

- 6th – 8th Grades: This group will be exploring World Religions and their holy days. Many different beliefs and religions will be explored during the year. (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. Confirmands are encouraged to attend all church services. (see page 10)

- 1st – 5th 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 12)

- The FFM Team has implemented Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education (OWL) for Grades 7 - 12. Next year (2027 - 2028) the program will be offered to 7th -10th graders. (see page 13)

- Youth Grades 9-12 are encouraged to volunteer by assisting in the nursery and classrooms, with choir, with FFM events such as Advent Arts and Lenten Lollapalooza, and by preparing for and participating in any possible mission trips.




Be sure to come back home for 'Open Doors Sunday' on **September 13th**! 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 coffee hour and an ice cream truck. 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 13th

10:00 a.m. **All Ages Worship Service** and Dedication of the Volunteers who work with our children and youth. Nursery Care is provided.

After Worship: **Registration for Church School, Youth Group and Confirmation** will take place in Fellowship Hall.

After Worship: **Coffee Hour** for mingling and enjoying sweet treats and ice cream in Fellowship Hall and on the Terrace.

**Sunday Mornings at BCCUCC**
**GENERAL INFORMATION**




## Church School Registration

We require that a registration form be completed for EACH CHILD who participates in our FFM programs. To register a child, please obtain a registration form from Andrea, download one from the website www.bccucc.org or pick one up from the registration table in Fellowship Hall on Sept 13th or 20th.

If you registered your child last year all you have to do is update your form on Open Doors Sunday. The information you provide helps us provide safe and welcoming programs for children and youth. Thank you!

***Regular Church School classes begin on***
***Sunday, September 20th, 2026***

## 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 Andrea.

## How Church School Happens

- Come on Sunday morning for 10:00 a.m. worship;
- Bring children 4 or older to worship for the first 15 minutes; parents bring younger children directly to Nursery prior to 10:00;
- 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 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. 13th, Oct. 11th, Nov. 29th, 2026; Jan. 17th, Feb. 14th, Apr. 18th, & May 30th, 2027), 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 the 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. Children's Offering is received in your child's classroom. Each year, the proceeds help to support a charity selected by the Faith Formation Team in partnership with the congregation. Children's offering envelopes will be available by request. Offering boxes are in the classrooms.

## 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 participating, please contact Andrea, or Kate Colby at kate@colbyhome.com. Rehearsals are held immediately after the worship service.

# PRE K – 2ND GRADES

**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 to learn more.

# 3RD – 5TH GRADES

The 3rd through 5th 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.



## 6TH – 8TH GRADES
## SEEKERS

A program focusing on faith exploration

The Seekers will explore World Religions in real time by matching each Sunday's lesson to a religious or spiritual day that falls on or around that Sunday. Each week will include an activity appropriate for the event. Over the course of the year we will explore many different beliefs and religions including Wiccan, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Bhuddism and more. Each week is a stand-alone journey of learning and celebration.

(Some weeks may involve food – be sure to let us know about any food sensitives.)

## 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. This year's Confirmation program will be facilitated by Associate Minister, Rev. Racquel Ray, with support from parents and church members. We are very excited to be with the 8th and 9th graders on their journey! Older youth who wish to be confirmed are also very welcome to join the program.

There will be an **Orientation to Confirmation Classes** for parents and the 2026 - 2027 confirmands on Sunday morning September 20th from 11:30 am – 1 pm in the church library. During the meeting Racquel will give a quick overview of the curriculum, provide coffee and donuts, and answer any questions people might have. In order to have an idea of how many to expect, Rev. Racquel asks that you ***RSVP if you plan to attend the meeting*** at 401-246-0111 x. 104 or racquel@bccucc.org.

*****The deadline to register for Confirmation is October 1st. Please contact Racquel to register. *****

**Confirmation class** will meet once a month on **Sundays** from **11:30 am – 1:00 pm** in the library during the school year, plus for some other special worship services and events. We are looking forward to a busy year and assisting with special service projects including Loaves & Fishes, Advent Arts, Lenten Lalapalooza and more.

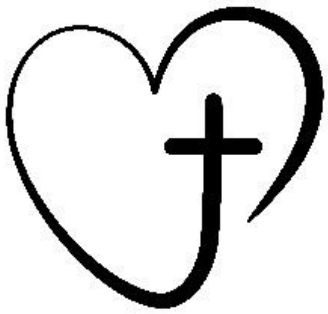
The schedule of dates to save is:

- Orientation with Parents and Confirmands

Sunday, September 20th, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Library

- October 4th
- November 1st
- December 6th
- January 3rd
- February 7th
- *February 10th, Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- March 7th
- *March 25th, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7pm
- April 4th
- *Service Projects (Dates TBD)

**Confirmation Sunday** will be May 16, 2027



# 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 at Open Doors Sunday, September 13th after Worship
- September 14th and 28th
- October 5th and 19th
- November 2nd ,9th, and 16th
- December 14th Trip to LaSalette
- December 21st Quiet Retreat in the Sanctuary, 6-7pm
- January 4th and 25th
- February 1st and 8th
- March 1st, 8th, and 15th
- April 5th, 12th, and 26th
- May 3rd, 10th, and 17th

Please contact Rev. Racquel Ray with any questions you may have. racquel@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 104.

## OUR WHOLE LIVES – SEXUALITY & OUR FAITH

Offered in the Fall of 2027
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.

OWL will be offered to 7th - 10th graders in 2027 - 2028

Learn more about OWL at
http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html

## VOLUNTEERING AT BCCUCC FFM 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.

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

# 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 commuter 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 him/herself in a compromising situation by being alone with a child or children. At least one teacher and one assistant must be present in the classroom every Sunday.
- 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.

* * * * *

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