



**January 13, 2022**

The bi-weekly newsletter of  
Barrington Congregational  
Church, United Church of  
Christ.

If your email platform lets you see only part of this email, then click on the following link to [View as Webpage](#). We don't want you to miss anything! You'll know you've reached the end when you see 'THE END!' in green.

## Calendar

***Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.***

**Sun, Jan 16**

10 am All Ages Worship Service (in-person & online)

Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or on our website [at this link](#)

**Mon, Jan 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

*Office Closed*

**Tues, Jan 18**

9:30 am Book Group meets via Zoom

11 am Staff meeting

7 pm Deacons meeting via Zoom

**Wed, Jan 19**

7 pm Mission and Justice Team meeting

**Thurs, Jan 20**

1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library

**Sun, Jan 23**

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online)

Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or on our website [at this link](#)

11:30 am Annual Budget Meeting via Zoom

**Mon, Jan 24**

10:30 - 11:30 am Bereavement Group, Fellowship Hall

11 am Lay Visitation Meeting, Library

**Tues, Jan 25**

11 am Staff meeting

**Wed, Jan 26**

*Noon Deadline for eBridge*

7 pm Membership Team meeting

**Sat, Jan 29**

9:30 am Church School Family event "Valentine Creations"

**Sun, Jan 30**

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online)

Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or on our website [at this link](#)

For the complete church calendar visit <http://bccucc.view-events.com>

Send calendar information to [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)

## Worship this Sunday, January 16

### All Ages Worship Service and a Guest Preacher joining Racquel

This Sunday is an **All Ages Worship Service** and we will celebrate **Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday**.

We will also welcome guest preacher, **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Smothers** who will join Pastor Racquel leading worship.

[Rev. Dr. Cynthia Smother's bio](#)

Pastor Racquel and Rev. Dr. Cynthia have a history of sharing the pulpit on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday and became friends while Racquel served as Chaplain to the John Clarke Senior Living community in Middletown, RI through the 2020-2021 pandemic shut-down. They've also shared other ministries together as you can read in the bio link above.



We hope that you can join us for worship this Sunday, either in-person in the sanctuary, or online (the links are in the calendar above and below)

### Multi-platform Worship - Sundays 10 am

All are invited to join us for our **multi-platform worship service** at **10 a.m.** every Sunday.

For those attending in person, we **require masks** be worn in worship (with exemptions for those under 2 or for medical reasons). We continue to take precautions to provide the safest conditions possible for everyone.

For those not yet ready, self-isolating, or unable to join us in person, the services are livestreamed so they can be watched online - either live or later - at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>. We invite you to join us for worship - in person or online.



## Our response to the increase in COVID cases

### COVID safety protocols have been updated and extended

The increasing number of COVID cases has resulted in some necessary updates to the measures we are taking to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible while at church. An email was sent to the congregation on Jan 5th outlining the updates ([read it here](#)). At their Jan 11th meeting, Church Council extended the updated protocols through the end of January - at which time they will be reassessed.

In summary, the following protocols are currently in place:

- Continuing masking\*, social distancing, and signing in for worship

- No singing of any kind in the sanctuary - by choir or congregation
- Masks will be worn by the worship leaders throughout the service
- Sitting in every other pew. The ushers will oversee this.
- No Church School
- No Youth Group

In addition please note the following changes:

- The children should remain in the pews with their families for Children's Time and not come up front
- No choir rehearsals

\*If possible, we encourage the wearing of KN95 masks which have been proven to be more effective at stopping the omicron virus. Surgical masks may be worn but because they don't fit as well to the face, they're not quite as effective. Unfortunately, cloth masks are not good at filtering out the omicron virus so should be avoided.

## Church office hours may change

Due to the current COVID situation, some of the church staff will be working remotely whenever possible. As a result the church office may not always be open as scheduled. If you plan to stop by, please call first. Messages can be left on the answering machine and calls will be returned as we have remote access to our phone messages as well as to our emails.

The church office is scheduled to be closed on **Mon, Jan 20th** for MLK Jr. Day.

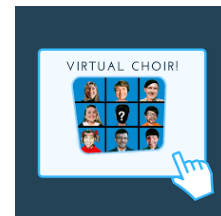
## Calendar changes may happen

The church's Annual Budget Meeting has been moved online and will be held via zoom rather than in the sanctuary after worship (see later for details)

Some of the meetings and groups currently scheduled on the calendar may need to be moved on line, postponed or cancelled. Watch your email inbox or contact the team or group leader for any updates that might affect you.

## Return of the virtual choir!

Even though there will be no in-person singing in worship for the next few weeks, there will still be music! We'll have the opportunity to watch and hear again some of the hymns and anthems recorded by the BCCUCC virtual choir, as well as some other music videos. We thank our Worship Tech Team for their work in making all of this possible.



# Next Sunday, January 23

## Annual Budget Meeting to be held online

Our church's Annual Budget Meeting will be held virtually via **Zoom** at **11:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, January 23rd.**

Due to the recent spike in the number of covid cases, we've seen a significant drop in the number of people attending in-person worship, so it's very unlikely that we'd have enough members present for a quorum. By moving the meeting online it allows those who can't attend in person to still participate in the meeting. Unfortunately, it isn't possible to hold a hybrid meeting where some members can attend in-person and others virtually – the technology in the sanctuary just doesn't allow it.

So we invite you to **attend virtually** and hope many members will, so that we have the necessary quorum to hold the meeting. We've moved the time of the budget meeting to



**11:30 am** in the hope that those who do attend worship in-person will have time to get home and login before the meeting starts. You can join the zoom meeting via computer or call in via a regular phone. *The zoom information isn't included here for security reasons but was in the email sent to the congregation.*

The budget will be emailed to the congregation prior to the meeting.

**Warrant for the ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**  
**Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island**  
**Sunday, January 23, 2022 via Zoom**

The annual budget meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, is hereby called to take place **virtually via Zoom\*** on **Sunday, January 23, 2022** at **11:30 am**. The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To review and vote on the proposed church budget for January 1 —December 31, 2022
- ARTICLE III: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE IV: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: *Greg Voigt*, Clerk

## Children and Youth

### No Youth Groups at this time

Unfortunately, the current situation with the omicron virus has caused us to put our youth groups on hold for a while - at least through the end of January, at which time the situation will be reassessed. Any questions should be directed to Pastor Racquel Ray at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 ext 104

### Valentine Creations

Church School Families are asked to save the date of **Saturday, January 29th** at 9:30 am for some "Valentine Creations". The church mice are scurrying around to put together a fun Saturday morning event, but as mice being mice they don't have the details yet!! This will be a fun family event, so keep an eye on your inboxes!



## Miscellaneous

### Souper Bowl of Caring's 'Tackle Hunger' challenge

Souper Bowl of Caring unites communities to support local hunger relief charities across the nation and encourages neighbors to tackle hunger in their local communities.



Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has created over \$170 million worth of support that stays completely local.

On **Souper Sunday, February 13th** (Super Bowl Sunday) groups are invited to take the Tackle Hunger Challenge! Learn more at [www.tacklehunger.org](http://www.tacklehunger.org). What if everyone watching the Big Game gave just one dollar or one can of food to tackle hunger?

**BCCUCC has taken on the challenge** and we're conducting a **food drive** to provide canned and shelf-stable food to our local food pantry, **TAP-IN**. You can join in the

challenge and support TAP-IN by donating canned soup or making a monetary donation to help feed hungry neighbors right now. All donations benefit hunger relief efforts!

Bring cans of soup to BCCUCC **from now through February 13th**. When donating cans, please check expiration dates as TAP-IN cannot accept items that are past their expiration date. Also pull-top cans are preferred when available, as recipients don't always have a can opener.

To make an online monetary donation go to [BCCUCC's donation page for the challenge](#).

Thank you.

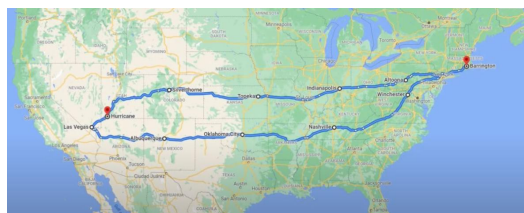
## From the Mission and Justice Team

The Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty held its annual vigil at the State House on January 4th. [Read the Providence Journal Report here](#) and [watch the video here](#)



## Dale's 'Hurricane Ride' video log of his trip to Utah

Dale is currently in the middle of his trip to Hurricane, Utah where he's participating in the Winter 4x4 Jamboree - a four day wheeling event for off-road vehicles. He's been posting a daily video log (vlog) of his trip to [our church's You Tube channel](#)



where you can watch them. At the time of writing he should be enjoying his second day of wheeling on the rocky trails in the area. In addition to footage from his day, he also shares a Musical Selection of the Day, Spiritual Thought for the Day, and more! There's some great footage of his first day of wheeling on Day 7, and all of the posts can be accessed from the link above. Please keep Dale in your prayers as his adventure continues.

*Our Senior Minister, Rev. Dale Azevedo is currently on a three month sabbatical and will return to work on Feb 23, 2022.*

## Photos wanted of The Christmas Story Stroll

We'd love to have photos from the Christmas Story Stroll held on Christmas Eve to post on our church website and keep for our records. If you have any you're willing to share, please send them to Christine at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org). As you can see below, all we could come up with at short notice was a picture of Racquel and volunteers setting up for the stroll! We look forward to seeing your photos. Thank you.

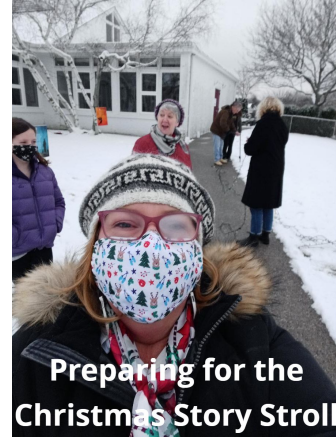
# Thank yous

## The Christmas Story Stroll

*A note from Racquel:*

"My deepest gratitude to BCCUCC for your support in making this Christmas truly miraculous. On a beautiful snowy Christmas Eve this congregation came together and offered the gift of community. With multigenerational volunteers we successfully embodied the Christmas Story Stroll sharing the Nativity story with our neighbors. With 175 participants and many grateful guests our church shared the light of Christ. And I am looking forward to seeing what you come up with for next Christmas!"

*Editors Note: Thanks to everyone who was involved in creating the 'Christmas Story Stroll' that brought Racquel's vision to life. There were too many volunteers to mention by name, but please know that your efforts were very much appreciated.*



**Preparing for the  
Christmas Story Stroll**

## Chancel Fund thanks + list of donors & dedications

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the Chancel Fund during Advent. Your donations paid for the poinsettias and plants in the sanctuary, the boxwood wreaths on the front doors, and the Christmas plants that were delivered by our deacons to the homebound, sick and recently bereaved. Thanks also to the Chancel Team members who arranged them all. The sanctuary looked beautiful on Christmas Eve. The list of donors and dedications was included in the bulletin for the 8 pm Christmas Eve service, but if you weren't able attend you can [see it here](#).



## Thank you from the staff

“We’ve had another challenging year of continuing the work of the church in the midst of a pandemic. We started 2021 with everything still happening remotely but by late June were able to return to in-person worship and re-open the church office - but with COVID protocols in place to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. Once again the congregation has been very generous in their donations to the staff Christmas gift and we are very appreciative. BCCUCC continues to be special place to work, and we’re fortunate to have our positions here. Many thanks for your generosity and we wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.  
*Christine, Pat, Andrea, Marina, and John.*”



## Mitten Tree thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks, and a fleece blanket to this year's mitten tree. It was filled with items each Sunday in December! They have been given to Federal Hill House which is a multi-service community-based organization that has been serving low-income, immigrant, and limited English speaking individuals and families in the City of Providence since 1887. Church member, Kim Fernandez, is their Executive Director. [Learn more about the organization](#)



**FEDERAL HILL HOUSE**

## Sad News

### Diane Todd 1960 - 2022

Church member Diane Todd passed away on Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at age 61. She had been a member at BCCUCC since 1996 and had been the Soup Kitchen Coordinator for our church for 16 years. [An article about Diane and her ministry](#) was part of our 'Be the Change' series and appeared in the 2/27/20 eBridge.

Please keep Diane's husband, Andrew and children Cate (28) and Drew (31) in your prayers. They are devastated by the unexpected loss of their wife and mother. Sympathy cards may be sent to them at 15 Seven Oaks Drive, Barrington RI 02806.

*We don't yet have an obituary or any information about services, but will share that with the congregation when it becomes available.*

## Patricia (Pat) Humphrey 1925 - 2021

We recently learned of the death of former church member, Pat Humphrey who passed away on May 5, 2021 at age 95, following a stroke. She had been a member of BCCUCC from 1973 until she moved to a retirement community in Pittsboro, North Carolina in 2008. While at our church she was very active including as a member of the church's handbell choir 'The White Church Ringers' and was very involved with the Church Fair that used to be held every year as a fundraiser. Pat was a talented craftswoman and once owned a gift shop in Barrington selling her own and other people's handicrafts.

## Ongoing groups

### Book Group for January

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, January 18th** at 9:30 am and will be meeting via Zoom. They will discuss *The Other Side of the Bridge* by Mary Lawson. For more information about the group - and to find out the location - contact Helen Schall at [helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenschall@hotmail.com) or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate. *The zoom information isn't included here for security reasons but was in the email sent to the congregation.*



### Women of Faith Reading Group

The group will meet again on **Thursday, January 20th** from **1:30 - 3 pm** in the church library. The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. For more information including the current material being read contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net).



### Bereavement Group

The Bereavement group will meet on **Monday, January 24th** from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The group is open to anyone (not just church members) who has lost a loved one at any time. New members are welcome. For more information, contact the facilitator, Betsy Brenner at Brenner at her new email address [betsybrenner3@gmail.com](mailto:betsybrenner3@gmail.com) or 245-8031.



### Knitting for Others Group

The Knitting Group will meet again on **Tuesday, February 1st** from 6:30 pm until 9 pm over Zoom. You may join the call at any time and stay for as long as you'd like. All knitters and crocheters are invited to participate and new faces are very welcome. For more information on the group, contact Nancy Arena at 401 246-0212 or [nancy.arena@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com).



*The zoom information isn't included here for security reasons but was in the email sent to the congregation.*

# From the church office

## Pledge envelopes for 2022

If you didn't request a set of envelopes for this year but would like some, please contact our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard at (401) 246-0111 x 102 or [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org), who will be happy to assign some to you. Those who had envelopes last year and didn't pick their 2022 envelopes from church last Sunday should receive theirs in the mail.



## CE building entry code changed

With a new year has come a change to the code for the three external doors to the Education Building that have keypad entries. We believe we've notified all the necessary individuals of the change, but if we missed you, please contact the church office at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org) or 410 246-0111.



## Beware of fake emails from Dale

A number of people notified us this past week of fake emails they'd received, supposedly sent by Dale requesting their help. Please know that these are scams and should be deleted!

To tell if an email from Dale is real or a fake, check the address from which it was sent. If it's not from [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) then it's a scam. Contact the church office if you're not sure. Also Dale isn't sending out emails while he's on sabbatical!



# Conference Happenings

## Keep up to date with our Conference - SNEUCC

The Southern New England Conference, UCC (SNEUCC), publishes several newsletters - one of which comes out weekly and is titled '**5 Things to Know and Share**'. Read the latest edition [at this link](#) and sign up to subscribe and get it sent to your inbox.



**Southern New England Conference**  
United Church of Christ  
*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

[Click on this link](#) to see the archive of all of the different SNEUCC newsletters - and subscribe to any that are of interest to you.

# COVID Safety Reminders

## Masks are required in both the education and church buildings

Masks are required for all participants in worship - with the following exclusions:

- anyone with a medical reason why they can't wear a mask
- children under the age of 2



## Education building is open with some important requirements

The education building is open for church and public use with the following **requirements**:



- All visitors attending meetings or events shall **wear appropriate masks at all times** (Note: Visitors includes both church people and outside groups)
- **Hand sanitizer** shall be made readily available for all attendees (this is the responsibility of the organization/individual holding the event)
- An accurate **copy of attendees and contact information** shall be kept (this is the responsibility of the organization/individual holding the event)
- Weather permitting, **doors and windows are to be propped open**
- Any room or venue utilized by a group shall **remain vacant for at least 20 hours** before being utilized by a separate group.



## Contact us

**Racquel** [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 104

**Christine** [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 101 (or just stay on the line)

**Pat** [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 102

**Andrea** [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 107

(Dale [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 103. *Note: Dale will not be checking any phone messages or emails until he returns after his sabbatical ends on 2/22/22.*)

**Church Office Hours:** Open Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Closed on Federal and State holidays.

**Building Security:** The Education building will remain locked at all times, even when the office is open. Please ring the bell for entry and we'll be happy to let you in - or use the code on the keypad if you have it.

*Please remember that masks are required in the education building at all times for all activities and meetings. Thank you for your cooperation.*

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# THE END !