



January 18, 2024

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

Calendar

*Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.
Closed on Federal and State Holidays & where otherwise noted*

Sun, Jan 21

9 am - 12:15 pm OWL Class, Library
10 am Worship Service, Church School

Mon, Jan 22

11 am Lay Visitation meeting, Library
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Room 9

Tues, Jan 23

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Jan 24

4 pm Pack bags for LFRI Backpack program, Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Jan 25

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe

Sun, Jan 28

10 am Worship Service, Church School
11 am Special Congregational Meeting for By-Laws and Annual Budget, Sanctuary

Mon, Jan 29

6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Room 9

Tues, Jan 30

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Jan 31

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Feb 1

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library

Sun, Feb 4

8:45 am FFaYM (Faith Formation and Youth Ministry) meeting, Library
10 am Worship Service with Communion, Church School
After Worship: Valentine making at Coffee Hour

If you can't be with us in person, we invite you to worship with us online

Our **Sunday morning services** are livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. They can be viewed on [our Facebook page](#) or on [our YouTube channel](#) - either live or watched later.

Only once the service is over, can a recording of the service be found on [our website](#). The **Sunday worship bulletin** is also posted to [our website](#).



Please attend this important church meeting

New update from the GMTF

The Governance and Ministry Task Force is excited for our **congregational meeting** on **Sunday, January 28** to be held in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service. At that meeting the church will vote on:

- our new church by-laws,
- a slate of nominations for positions in the new church structure,
- the 2024 church budget.



The Finance Team is putting together the final pieces of the budget and plans to have that available ahead of the meeting.

The draft of the proposed 2024 By-Laws is already available on a [special website dedicated to the new structure](#), which can also be accessed from the news page of the church website www.bccucc.org/news/.

Lastly, nominating is going really well and we are finalizing our last two positions. That information will be made available as soon as it is completed.

By the end of next week, ahead of the congregational meeting, **an email will be sent to the congregation** containing links to all of the items up for vote: the proposed budget, the list of nominees, and the draft by-laws. All church members are encouraged to attend this important meeting (official warrant is below) and child care will be provided.

Official Warrant for the Congregational Meeting

Warrant for the Special By-Laws and Budget Meeting of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, Barrington, Rhode Island: Sunday, January 28, 2024.

The special By-Laws and Budget Meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC is hereby called to take place in the sanctuary following the regular 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 28, 2024. 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, 2024.

ARTICLE III: To review and vote on the proposed By-Laws for the new church structure.

ARTICLE IV: To review and vote on the slate of nominees for positions in the new structure.

ARTICLE V: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

ARTICLE VI: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Voigt, Clerk

Miscellaneous

2024 Contribution Envelopes

For those who requested them, their 2024 contribution envelopes are ready for pick up.

If you haven't had a set of contribution envelopes before but would like to start using envelopes in 2024, please contact Financial Secretary, Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 102) and she will assign you a set.



A very belated welcome to new staff member, Barbara Lee

When our custodian Frank Lee took time off for knee surgery in late October, his wife Barbara kindly offered to fill in for him while he was out. She has been a lovely addition to the church staff and has done a great job over the past few months while her husband recuperated.

Frank returned to work this week and as his knee continues to recover, he'll work just 10 hours a week and Barbara will stay on but cut back and work the other 5 hours. They plan to continue with this arrangement through June, and we're all delighted that Barbara will remain on staff for several more months.

Frank and Barbara started attending BCCUCC in January 2022 and became official members in May of the same year. They found a new church home with us and soon became involved with several ministries, including being ushers. We're so lucky to have them both at BCCUCC and thank them for all that they do.



Do you need a name tag?

If you would like a nametag please contact the church office at office@bccucc.org or call (401) 246-0111 and let us know what name you'd like on the nametag and your preference for a clip, pin or string holder. Nametags are stored on the rack in the vestry hallway, or you can keep it in your car or purse where you can easily find it on a Sunday morning.



Girl Scout Cookie Sales - one day only at coffee hour!

It's Girl Scout cookie season! We have several girl scouts in the congregation representing several troops. To be most inclusive to our kids, we would like to offer ONE cookie sale day **during coffee hour on Sunday, February 11**. Girl Scouts from BCCUCC may set up a cookie table during coffee hour to offer cookie sales to church guests. Please email Rev. Racquel racquel@bccucc.org to sign up.



Clothing Shed results

We recently received a letter from St. Pauly Textile Inc, the organization that installed and collects the items left in the clothing shed in our parking lot. They let us know that our shed collected 56,224 pounds of clothing in 2023 which is

enough to clothe an estimated 10,357 people all over the world. Based on this volume of clothing, the church received payment of \$2,249.

Thanks to all who use the shed, with special thanks to Jay Buckley, Frank and Barbara Lee, and Pat Stoddard who regularly move the bags from where they land inside the shed below the drop slot, and stack them up against the walls, making room for more donations.



In the event of bad weather....

We will always do our best to notify you of cancellations, especially if we ever need to cancel Sunday worship. Be sure to check your email, Facebook, and the TV and radio stations. You can also check the [RI Broadcasters Closings list](#). However, in the event that we lose power and/or internet connection we will be unable to post these notifications.



Your safety is important to us, so if the weather is bad but church is going ahead, please don't come out unless you're comfortable doing so - even if you're scheduled to assist in some way with the service. Your wellbeing is the #1 priority.

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Racquel and titled "Draw Inspiration from MLK". If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#).



Ongoing groups and events (listed alphabetically)

Bereavement Group

This support group is open to anyone (not just church members) who has lost a loved one at any time and new members are always welcome. The group meets once a month from **10 - 11 am** in the church library and next meet on **Monday, February 12**. For more information contact one of the facilitators, Betsy Brenner at betsybrenner3@gmail.com or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at aubreyfolk@aol.com or (401) 392-1909, or Rev. Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org (401) 246 0111 x 104.



Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, February 20** at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *North River* by Peter Hamill. [Book review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Choir rehearsals

If you enjoy singing, why not join the church choir - no audition needed! Rehearsals are on **Wednesday evenings** at **7:30 pm** in the Vestry. To learn more, speak with our music director Matthew Marion after church or at (401) 954-7107 or mmarion1811@gmail.com. Or speak with any choir member - they'd love to have you join them. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord!



Coffee chats with Racquel - and others!

On **Thursday mornings** Rev. Racquel and others meet at [Thrive Tribe Café](#), 60 Maple Ave, Barrington from **8:30 – 9:30 am** for coffee and conversation. All are welcome to join them any time they can make it. Note: they still meet even when Racquel is away.



Knitting for Others Group - in person and via Zoom

The Knitting for Others Group meets both in person and via zoom on the first Tuesday of each month, and next meets on **Tuesday, February 6** from **6:30 - 9 pm**. Feel free to stop into the library or join the call at any time and stay as long as you 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.



The Zoom information needed is not included here for security reasons. It is in the email sent to the congregation.

Loaves and Fishes Backpack Program

CCUCC continues the collection of food bags to be given to the families of 25 students at DelSesto Middle School in Providence who are experiencing food insecurity. We continue to partner with *We Share Hope* (<https://wesharehope.org>) to provide food to those in need & also with *Books are Wings* who donate free books for the students. (<https://www.booksarewings.org>).



BCCUCC supplements the food donations to fill the bags. We collect the following items in the box in the narthex as you go up the stairs to church: **peanut butter, bread, jelly, oatmeal, canned tuna, rice and beans, pasta and sauce, fruit cups, granola bars and shelf stable pudding**. Thank you to those who supported December's collection.



Please use [January's SignUpGenius link](#) to sign up to donate specific items, being sure to indicate how many of an item you can donate. If you need help signing up please call the church office (401) 246-0111.

The **deadline** for January food donations is **Sunday, January 21** and the **packing of the bags** will take place on **Wednesday, January 24** at **4 pm** in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in helping put the bags together. Contact Jay Buckley pbuckley6@cox.net or 578-6533 if you can help, or with any questions.

Women of Faith Reading Group

The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. They meet for discussions on books, faith and life on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from **1:30 - 3 pm** in the church library.

Upcoming meetings are on **Thursdays, February 1 and 15**. For more information - including what they're currently reading - contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net



Youth Group

The Youth Group (for grades 5 - 8) gathers most weeks throughout the year on **Mondays** from **6 - 7pm** in Fellowship Hall and Room 9. Youth group meetings consist of fun and fellowship,

simple dinner (usually pizza) and a closing prayer service. When the weather permits, they'll meet on the terrace, labyrinth, and playground. *Note: There is no youth group when Barrington Public Schools have a day off.*

Their next meetings are on **Mondays, Jan 22 & 29**. All youth grades 5 - 8 are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Rev. Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 104.

Don't forget that youth participating in any programs at church must be registered. [Registration form](#)



Some eBridge articles have been moved!

In an effort to reduce the length of this newsletter but not cut back on material that might be of interest to some folks - in particular anyone new to our church - some of the material that was repeated in each edition of the eBridge has been moved to a separate page. To learn more about any of the subjects listed below please [click on this link](#)



Sunday mornings at BCCUCC:

- Services livestreamed to Facebook and YouTube.
- Nursery Care.
- Learn more about Church School and our other programs for children and youth.

From the Church Office:

- Deadlines for Announcements and eBridge.
- Online donations to the church through our website.

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.

[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.



Connect with Us

Rev. Dale Azevedo Senior Minister dale@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 103

Rev. Racquel Ray Associate Minister for Congregational Life racquel@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 104

Christine Wallis Office Administrator office@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 101 (or just stay on the line)

Pat Stoddard Financial Secretary pat@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 102

Andrea Bullard Faith Formation Director andrea@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 107

Matthew Marion Music Director mmarion1811@gmail.com Music Director

Church Office Hours: Open Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.

Closed on Federal and State holidays.

Building Security: The Education building remains 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.



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