



January 2, 2020

Newsletter of Barrington
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year

Calendar

Church office hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 - 12:30 and 1:30 - 4:30 unless otherwise noted

Thurs, Jan 2

3 - 5 pm Community Office Hours, The Coffee Depot in Warren
6 - 7:30 pm NAMI RI Family Support Group, Room 6

Fri, Jan 3

Dale on call for pastoral emergencies

Sun, Jan 5 Epiphany Sunday

10 am Worship Service with Communion, Church School

Mon, Jan 6

Fellowship Hall arches repair work begins

Tues, Jan 7

11 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

7 - 9 pm Knitting for Others, Library

Wed, Jan 8

7 pm Mission and Justice Team meeting, Library

7:30 - 9 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Jan 9

1:30 - 3 pm Women's Faith Group, Library

No Community Office Hours (Brendan away)

Fri, Jan 10

Brendan on call for pastoral emergencies

Sat, Jan 11

2:45 pm BCCUCC Volunteers leave for Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket

Sun, Jan 12 Mass Incarceration Awareness Sunday

8:30 am CEYM meeting, Library

10 am Worship Service with Guest Preacher, Rev. Marilyn Kendrix, Church School

5 - 7 pm Youth Group, Room 9

Mon, Jan 13

11 am Bereavement Group, Library

7 pm Buildings and Grounds meeting, Room 6

Tues, Jan 14

11 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

7 pm Church Council meeting, Room 6

Wed, Jan 15

Noon Deadline for eBridge

1:30 pm Communion Service at Atria Senior Living

7:30 - 9 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Jan 16

3 - 5 pm Community Office Hours, The Coffee Depot in Warren

7 pm M&J sponsored speaker event on 'Medicare for All', Sanctuary

Fri, Jan 17

Dale on call for pastoral emergencies

Sun, Jan 19 Celebration of Beloved Community

10 am All Ages Worship, Nursery Care available

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

Send calendar information to office@bccucc.org

Send information for inclusion in the next eBridge to office@bccucc.org
Deadline for the next eBridge is Noon on **Wednesday, January 15th, 2020**

Forward the eBridge to a friend and invite them to [join our email list](#)

Be sure you get to see ALL of the eBridge. Some platforms - including gmail - only show part of it with a link at the bottom to the remainder.

Sunday, January 5th

Thanks for filling the creche

Many thanks to everyone who shared their stuffed animals, items of special

meaning, or donated items for new mothers and their babies to the creche in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas. **Following Sunday's service**, the shared items can be taken back by their owners. If you're not able to be in church this Sunday, we will hold your items for pick up at a later date.



2020 Pledge envelopes

Pledge envelopes for 2020 are available for pick up on Sunday mornings from the table in the narthex, or from the church office during the week. If you didn't request a set of envelopes but would like some, please contact our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard, who will be happy to assign some to you. Pat can be contacted at (401) 246-0111 x 102 or pat@bccucc.org



144 Envelopes Fundraiser for the 2020 Mission Trip

At coffee hour during the month of January you will notice a bulletin board with envelopes with a Puerto Rico flag on them. Each envelope has a specific dollar amount printed on it (from \$1 - \$144). We invite you to take an envelope with the dollar amount that appeals to you, and then return it containing your donation to the church office. Checks should be made payable to 'BCCUCC' with 'Mission Trip' in the memo line. We look forward to our mission/service trip to Puerto Rico where we will be repairing cement roofs to help provide safe shelter for those in need. Many thanks for contributing to this fundraiser and supporting our mission trip.



Thank You

Thank you from the lay staff

"Once again this Christmas, the congregation has been generous in their response to thanking the lay staff for all that they do. We are so fortunate to work at BCCUCC with two great ministers for 'bosses' and such a caring and appreciative congregation. Even those of us who don't worship here feel part of the BCCUCC family! Thank you all so very much, and we wish you all the best in 2020.

Christine, Pat, Andrea, Marina, Paul and John"



Thanks for all of your donations

The congregation donated \$805.00 to the **Giving Tree** – many thanks to all who made a donation. The Mission and Justice Team purchased \$620.00 in gift cards for Stop and Shop, Shell Gas Station, Rite Aid, CVS, and Target. The gift cards were delivered to the Women's Resource Center on December 19th for distribution to their clients. The remaining \$185.00 was donated to the Good Neighbor Fund that helps people pay their energy bills.

Thanks also to everyone who made a donation of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and other warm items to the **Mitten Tree**. The items are being donated to Amos House and to the Loaves and Fishes RI program.

The **UCC Christmas Fund Offering** was taken on Sun, Dec 22nd as an expression of appreciation and caring to those who have served within the UCC as our clergy and are now disabled, retired or financially strained. Many thanks to all who made a donation. The Fund provides pension supplements, health premium subsidies, emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families, and Christmas checks to hundreds of retirees and to those who are disabled. More information [at this link](#)



January at BCCUCC

Clergy away

Brendan will be away at NGLI (Next Generation Leaders Initiative) from January 3rd - 9th.

Dale will be away on retreat with the RI Ministers Association on Mon and Tues, January 13th and 14th.



Save the date of Brendan's leaving!

As announced last month, Brendan has been called to serve a church in Forest Grove, Oregon. His last day at BCCUCC will be **Sunday, January 26th**. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a special coffee hour after worship that day as we say farewell to Brendan and thank him for his five and a half years of ministry with us. Stay tuned for more details.

The Fellowship Hall Arch Project is about to begin!

The Buildings & Grounds Team and the Finance Team extend a hearty **THANK YOU** to all who submitted a financial pledge towards the Fellowship Hall Arch Project. The cost of the project will total around \$30,000 and work begins next week. Our very generous lead givers pledged \$25,000 and 35 church families pledged an additional \$5,600 for a total of \$30,600. To date, we have received \$28,000 of the pledged funds. Additional pledges are still coming in and are most welcome, as there may be some overages as the work progresses. And there are other capital needs on the horizon. We are blessed to have such generous folks in this congregation!



Repair work on the arches in Fellowship Hall is scheduled to begin on **Monday, January 6th** and last between two and four weeks. During this time Fellowship Hall will not be usable, so coffee hour after worship will take place in the vestry, located below the sanctuary. It is hoped that the library will be accessible from the rest of the building by walking through the hall on the road side beyond the interior posts. However, we ask that on Sunday mornings you avoid the construction area by walking around the outside of the education building to get to the church, rather than enter via the kitchen door and try to walk through the building. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Mass Incarceration Awareness Sunday is January 12th

Although the general population is largely unaware of it, the US prison population has skyrocketed over recent decades. Prison populations have increased 700% in the past half century. That, along with the privatization of prisons have turned incarceration into big business. Additionally, incarceration rates for black males is more than three times the percentage of black males in society. What does all this mean for America today? What does our faith as Christians call us to do when we come across such staggering statistics?



Rev. Marilyn Kendrix, former Transitional Conference Minister for the RI Conference, UCC, will be joining us for worship on **Sunday, January 12th** and sharing her work raising Christian awareness of this growing issue in our country. Please come join her and the rest of us.

Youth Group

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend Youth Group with Rev. Brendan Curran on **Sunday, January 12th** from 5 - 7 pm in Room 9.



"What is 'Medicare for All' and why does it matter?"

Our Mission and Justice Team is sponsoring this community event open to all, on **Thursday, January 16th** at 7 pm in our sanctuary. J. Mark Ryan MD and James Cowen, MD, will give a 45 minute talk followed by Q&A. They are the leaders of the RI Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), and they will explain single payer, the public option, other proposals, and why the differences matter. All are welcome. [More information.](#)



No Swaps in January!

Due to repair work happening in Fellowship Hall in January, there will be no Childrens Clothes and Toy Swap, and no Women's Clothes Swap in January. They will resume in February.

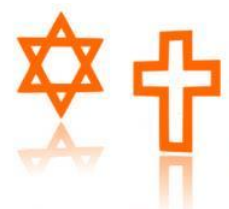


A Reverend and a Rabbi walk into a bar.....

...(so to speak)and they begin to talk about God and how each of their communities of faith worship, wonder, and think about God. They discover similarities and differences.

Rev. Dale Azevedo will present *Christian Perspectives on God* on **Wednesday, January 29th** from 7 – 8:30 pm at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington.

Rabbi Andrew Klein will present *Jewish Perspectives on God* on **Wednesday, February 5th** from 7 – 8:30 pm at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC. All are invited to attend both sessions.



Special Meeting of the RI Association of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC

On **Thursday, January 30th** a special meeting of the new RI Association UCC (formerly the RI Conference UCC) will take place from 6 – 8 pm here at Barrington

Congregational Church, UCC. The agenda for this meeting will include approval of the 2020 Budget for the Rhode Island Association. There will also be a time of worship and fellowship. In this new year, we celebrate the creation of the new Rhode Island Association. We look forward to building off our past as we discover a new vision for ministry together in the Southern New England Conference. This gathering will be our first opportunity to catch a glimpse of all God has in store for us. Come join in the hope and love of God.

Make sure that you see ALL of the eBridge.

Some platforms - including gmail - only show part of it with a link to the remainder. Click on that link at the end of what's visible, to see the rest of the newsletter!

Information about all of the groups that meet regularly, is found later in this email....scroll down to find it!

Can you help?

Greeters needed

The Membership team is now recruiting greeters for 2020. Greeting is an easy way to participate in the ministry here at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC. No experience is necessary and greeters can be individuals, couples or families! Greeters arrive at church 20 minutes early and welcome everyone as they come up the stairs to the sanctuary. Sign-ups for all of 2020 are available at coffee hour. Worried about forgetting? Make sure to include your information so that the team can send you a reminder. Thanks to everyone willing to do this important and welcoming ministry.



Sign up to help with coffee hour in January or February

Volunteers are being asked to help the assigned teams with coffee hour on a Sunday in January or February, and can help with providing food, serving or clean up. You can either sign up in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour on a Sunday, or contact Jane Tonn at jtonn2@cox.net or 289-2349. Those who sign up will receive an email reminder the Wednesday before the Sunday that they have volunteered to help.



Regular Weekly and Monthly happenings (listed alphabetically)

Bereavement Group

The group next meets **Monday, Jan 13th** at 11 am in the library. The group is open to anyone (not just church members) who has lost a loved one at any time. For more information, contact the facilitator Betsy Brenner at jsbeeb@aol.com or 245-8031.

Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, January 28th** at 11:30 am at the Coffee Depot, 501 Main St, Warren. We will be discussing *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley.

"On a foggy August night, a private plane flying from Martha's Vineyard to New York City crashes into the ocean 16 minutes after takeoff, killing nine of the 11 persons aboard. As the narrative weaves between the aftermath of the crash to the backstories of those who died, conspiracy theories abound. Hawley (*The Good Father*, 2012) ramps up suspense as the investigation into the crash proceeds, along with the level of the commentary by ALC headliner Bill Cunningham, who goes to illegal ends to gather information. A pulse-pounding story, grounded in humanity." For information about the group, please contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 245-4724. All are welcome!

Community Office Hours

Community Office Hours are held on **Thursday afternoons** from **3–5 pm** at [The Coffee Depot](#), 501 Main Street, Warren. Anyone from the church or community is welcome to stop by and chat with Brendan in this more informal setting. *There will be NO community office hours on Thursday, January 9th as Brendan will be away at NGLI.*



East Bay Kids Clothing and Toy Swap

Please note that there will be NO kids clothes swap in January as Fellowship Hall is unavailable due to repair work being undertaken (see above).

Held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, the next one won't be until **Saturday, February 15th** from 9:30 - 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Trade in clean clothes, shoes, and gently used toys, and get new (to you) items! Size newborn to age 12. Give what you can, take what you need. \$3 - 5 donation at the door, but no-one turned away. Open to the community. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/EastBayKidsClothesSwap/>



Knitting Group

Knitting for Others Group will meet **Tuesday, January 7th** from 7 – 9 pm in the church library. The group meets monthly - on the 1st Tuesday - makes a variety of different items to be given away (prayer shawls, hats for children in Head Start etc) and can provide patterns and help. All knitters and crocheters are welcome, especially new faces! For more information about the group, contact Nancy Arena at 246-0212 or Nancy.Arena@outlook.com.



NAMI RI Family Support Group

NAMI RI (*National Alliance on Mental Illness*) holds a monthly support group at our church for family members of people with mental illness. Open to anyone in the community the next meeting is **Thurs, Jan 2nd** from 6 – 7:30 pm in Room 6. For more info contact NAMI RI at info@namirhodeisland.org or call (401) 331-3060.



Women's Faith Group

The Women's Faith Group has it's next regular meeting scheduled for **Thursday, January 9th** (a week later than usual) from 1:30 – 3 pm in the church library. Their new book will be *The Windows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey. Copies are available for purchase from the church office for the discounted price of \$13. The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net.



'From the River's Edge' - the pastors' blog

The latest blog is from Brendan **"Waiting for the revolution"** The next blog will go out 1/9/2020. If you missed any earlier blog posts they are all on the church website **at this link**. There are also links to the most recent ones from the homepage of our website **www.bccucc.org**



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Community notices

Rhode Island Children's Chorus is holding auditions

The RI Children's Chorus is holding auditions for new members to join them for their spring semester, which begins in Jan 2020. There are four levels of vocal/musical training, from grades 2 - 12. They are especially looking for high school tenors and basses! Auditions are Sat, Jan 4th in East Providence and Wed, Jan 8th in East Greenwich. **More information** or at **www.richildrenschorus.org**



Reminders

Nametags

Both adult and children's nametags are stored in the racks in the vestry hallway. Please pick up yours as you come into worship and wear it through coffee hour. As you leave put it in one of the collection baskets - to be returned to the nametag rack ready next time. **Need a nametag?** Sign up in the vestry hallway or at the back of Fellowship Hall or email the office at **office@bccucc.org** - be sure to indicate if you want a clip, pin or string style of holder. Newly made nametags are placed in the specially labeled basket on the sideboard in the vestry hallway for you to pick up.



Sermons available on line

If you miss church on Sunday or want to hear the sermon again, you can do so at the following link **Sermon Archive**.



Please 'Like' and 'Comment' on our posts to keep us visible!

Help us stay visible on Facebook by both liking AND commenting (in 5 or more words) on our posts! That way the Facebook algorithm allows our church's page (**www.facebook.com/bccucc**) to show up in more people's feeds. You can also find us on Instagram at **BarringtonUCC**.



Make sure your emails are reaching us!

We only receive emails sent to the following addresses:



Dale dale@bccucc.org Brendan brendan@bccucc.org Christine office@bccucc.org
Pat pat@bccucc.org Andrea andrea@bccucc.org.

Keep up to date with what's happening at church!

2019-2020 Church Calendar can be seen at <http://bccucc.view-events.com> or from the bottom of any page on our church website www.bccucc.org.

Please notify Christine with information about meetings/events etc. so the calendar can always be kept up to date. Contact her at office@bccucc.org or 246-0111.

Useful Links

[Upcoming Worship Services](#)

[Our Church Calendar](#)

[Our Church Website](#)

[Listen to the sermon](#)

[Our Sunday Announcements](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[BCCUCC 2019 Annual Report](#)

[RI Conference UCC Website](#)

[RI Conference UCC Newsletter](#)

[UCC Website](#)

Feedback wanted: We hope you enjoy reading the eBridge and find it informative. Your feedback/comments/suggestions (good and bad!) are always welcome. [Email them to Christine](#)

Forward the eBridge to a friend and invite them to [join our email list](#)

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