



January 27, 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.

Sat, Jan 29

9:30 am Church School Family event "Valentine Creations", Fellowship Hall

Sun, Jan 30

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online)

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

Tues, Feb 1

11 am Staff meeting

6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others Group meet via Zoom

Thurs, Feb 3

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

Sun, Feb 6

8:30 am FFaYM meeting (Faith Formation and Youth Ministries)

10 am Worship Service with Communion (in-person & online)

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

Tues, Feb 8

11 am Staff meeting

7 pm Church Council meeting via Zoom

Wed, Feb 9

Noon Deadline for eBridge

Sun, Feb 13

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online)

Watch at 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

Sundays at BCCUCC

Will there be church this Sunday, January 30th?

At the time of writing a snowstorm is forecast for this weekend, which may affect our ability to hold the Sunday worship service.

Depending on the severity of the storm and the resulting condition of the roads, our parking lot and sidewalks, as well as the power supply, worship may go ahead as planned, or there may only be virtual worship, or there may be no worship at all - in person or virtual.

We will do our best to notify you of any cancellation so be sure to check your email, Facebook, and the TV and radio stations*. If all goes to plan, you should receive any cancellation notification by 8 a.m. Sunday morning - if not sooner. However, in the event that we lose power and/or internet connection we will be unable to post these notifications.



*It's possible to check the RI Broadcasters list of cancellations from their home page at www.ribroadcasters.com and scroll down to the red 'View Current Closures' button, or you can access them directly [at this link](#).

Altar Flower donors needed

There are currently openings on **Sundays, February 13th and 20th** for donors to pay for one or both vases of the altar flowers. Cost is \$30 per vase. Altar flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event, and your dedication will be included in the worship bulletin and read during the service. If interested, please contact Jen Melker at jkmelker@gmail.com or (617) 877-1278. Thank you.



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 (see below).

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 or <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>.

Very occasionally there are problems livestreaming the service to Facebook. If that happens, the livestream will instead be posted to [our church's YouTube Channel](#).

We invite you to join us for worship - in person or online.



Our response to the current COVID situation

Increased COVID safety protocols extended through February

Additional safety measures were put in place at BCCUCC in early January in response

to the omicron variant and resulting high numbers of COVID cases in the community. These protocols have been extended through the end of February, after which time they will be reassessed.

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

Due to the current COVID situation, some of the church staff are 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. .

No Youth Groups or Church School at this time

Unfortunately, the current situation with the omicron virus has caused us to put our youth groups and church school on hold for a while - and this has been extended through February, at which time the situation will be reassessed. Any questions should be directed to Pastor Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104

Opportunities to make a difference

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. 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 **through February 13th** and add them to the pyramid of cans in the narthex! They can also be dropped off in the church office during the week. 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.

Urgent Appeal from the RI State Council of Churches and Lifespan Hospital

The pandemic is placing stress on the healthcare system in Rhode Island. Lifespan has contacted the Rhode Island State Council of Churches (RISCC) for help finding individuals to join the Volunteer Corps at Rhode Island, Miriam or Bradley Hospital. There are numerous non-medical tasks that can be done. After two years of doing the hard work of caring, healthcare workers urgently need our support.

Rev. Eugene T. Dyszlewski, President of RISCC, writes: "Rhode Island is our home. This is where we belong. This is about helping our families, neighbors and friends. What better way to thank the "heroes" who are tirelessly providing care, than to stand with them. If you are at all able, please join a Hospital Volunteer Team. The need is real."

For more information, please contact The Rhode Island State Council of Churches at riscc@councilofchurchesri.org or [click on this link](#)

Step Up

to Support Our Lifespan Healthcare Workers

Healthcare workers at Rhode Island, The Miriam and Bradley hospitals have been caring for our community throughout the pandemic. After almost two long years, they could use a hand.

Volunteer opportunities are available at all three hospitals, in various non-clinical roles.

Must be fully vaccinated and boosted.

Must be able to commit four hours weekly, 100 hours annually.

For information on volunteering at individual hospitals, please contact:

Rhode Island Hospital: spank@lifespan.org

The Miriam Hospital: miriam@lifespan.org

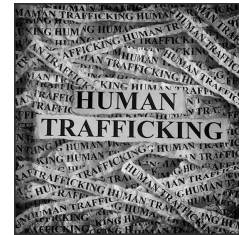
Bradley Hospital: bradley@lifespan.org



Take a stand against Human Trafficking

From the Mission and Justice Team:

As Human Trafficking Awareness Month comes to an end, we want to remind you that human trafficking can happen anywhere at any time. Contact your Representative, and tell them to support the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021. [More information and email link](#)



Ongoing groups

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.

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, February 3rd** 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.



Bereavement Group

The group cancelled their meetings in January due to the COVID situation, but they are going to try and meet on **Mondays, February 14th and 28th** from 10:30 – 11:30 am 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 or 245-8031.



Book Group for January

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, February 15th** at 9:30 am and will again be meeting via Zoom. They will discuss *End of the Point* by Elizabeth Graver. For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at 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.

In case you missed it

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Racquel and titled 'Err on the Side of Compassion'. If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#)



From the church office

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. 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.

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, 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 or 410 246-0111.



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 (401) 246-0111 x 104

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

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

Andrea andrea@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 107

(Dale 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 !