



January 28, 2021

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

If your email platform only lets you see part of this email, then click on the following link to [View as Webpage](#) We don't want you to miss anything!

Calendar

Church Office is CLOSED until further notice.

There will be no in-person worship services at church until further notice

Sat, Jan 30

9:30 am Bird Feeder Fun, Terrace

Sun, Jan 31

10 am Live-streamed Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this new link](#)

Mon, Feb 1

7 - 7:30 pm Meditative Coloring for Adults via Zoom

Tues, Feb 2

8 am A Peaceful Pause and Prayer, livestreamed

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom

2 pm Worship Tech Team meet via Zoom

7 pm Knitting for Others group meets via Zoom

Thurs, Feb 4

8 am A Peaceful Pause and Prayer, livestreamed

Sun, Feb 7

8:30 am CEYM meeting via Zoom

10 am Live-streamed Worship Service with Communion (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this new link](#)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Confirmation Class

Mon, Feb 8

3 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners meet via Zoom

7 - 7:30 pm Meditative Coloring for Adults, via Zoom

Tues, Feb 9

8 am A Peaceful Pause and Prayer, livestreamed

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom

2 pm Worship Tech Team meet via Zoom
7 pm Church Council meets via Zoom

Wed, Feb 10

Noon - *Deadline for next eBridge*

Tues, Feb 11

8 am A Peaceful Pause and Prayer, livestreamed

Sat, Feb 13

9:30 am 'Cookie Creations' activity for children and families, Terrace

Sun, Feb 14

10 am Live-streamed All Ages Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this new link](https://www.bccucc.org)

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

Send calendar information to office@bccucc.org

Have you seen our new church website?

Our new church website went live in early January and it has an entirely new layout and appearance. You can find it at the same web address www.bccucc.org. It was designed to be welcoming to visitors and easy for them to navigate. It also contains nearly all the same information as our old website so all of your important questions can be answered there.



Sundays at BCCUCC

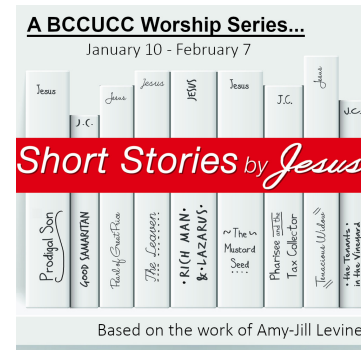
Our **online worship service** is at **10 am** every Sunday morning and you can watch it live either on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc (click on the 'posts' or 'videos' link to find it) or on our website at this new link <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>. If you miss it live, a recording can be watched later at the same links.

We include on the screen all of the information needed for participating in worship each week. Please note that there will be no in-person worship until further notice.



Sermon series continues

Dale and Linda are exploring some of Jesus' parables found throughout the gospels in a series entitled *Short Stories of Jesus*. Many of these stories you will have heard before. What makes this series interesting is that the sermons are based on the work of Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of Jewish studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She tries to approach the New Testament as one of Jesus' original listeners might have. Come (virtually) and hear these timeless stories in a new way! Two sermons remain in the series, and can be heard during the worship services on **Jan 31st and Feb 7th**.



We will celebrate Communion during worship on February 7th

On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate communion during the virtual service. We invite everyone who wishes to participate to have elements prepared ahead of time for you to join in this celebration. If



you have bread and juice (or even wine) feel free to use it. However, we invite you to participate with whatever elements you have on hand. Christ is present and will not be denied if you do not have the “proper” elements. God understands and joins us however invited, if invited with an open and loving heart.

Altar Flower dedications

On Sunday, January 31st:

Both arrangements are given by Barbara and Dick McWhirter in celebration of their 62nd wedding anniversary



On Sunday, February 7th:

One arrangement is given by Bethia Rosner in loving memory of her husband Andy.

The other arrangement is given by Jen and Barry Melker in celebration of their Hannah's 17th birthday, with the message “Love you! Mom and Dad.”

Birthdays being celebrated

The week of January 31st: Jeff Stumpff, Libardo DeLaTorre, Jane Tonn, Beth Buckley, Zane Maio, Tessa Lapinski, Hannah Melker, Ellie Steger, and Haley LaVena.

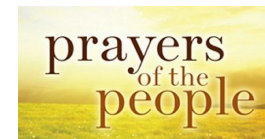


The week of February 7th: Mary DeWitt, Barb McWhirter, Asher Soares, Steve Peck, Thomas Materne, Micaela Materne, Corey Miesner, Rich Staples, Betsy Restituyo, Henry Steger, Anson Mole, and Matt Steger.

If your name doesn't appear and you'd like it to, please contact the church office so we can add your birthdate to our data base. Thank you.

Prayer requests

Deadline for submitting prayers to be included in worship is **8 am Sunday morning**. You can either leave a message on the church's answering machine (401) 246-0111, or email Dale dale@bccucc.org or Linda linda@bccucc.org. Please be sure that the person you are lifting up is comfortable with them reading your prayer to the whole community, and consider using first names only.



Deacons

Amy Barkat (chair), Nancy Arena, Steve Fodor, Lory McCoy, Pat Stoddard, Carol Strakosch, Jeff Stumpff, and Jane Tonn. In a pastoral emergency if you cannot reach either of our ministers, please reach out to one of our deacons.

New or updated information

Also check out the new articles from M&J later in this newsletter

'Peaceful Pause and Prayer' is going to continue

Dale is going to continue these morning meditations at **8:00 am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings** beginning February 2nd. Each meditation will provide moments for reflection, music, scripture, and silence.

They can be watched on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on the livestream page of our new website at <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/> and will remain available for later viewing on both

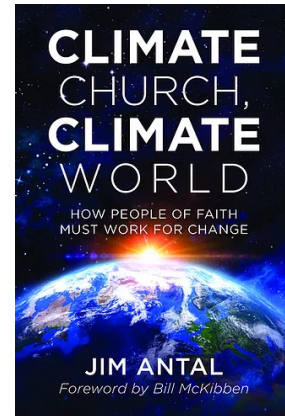
platforms if you can't watch live.



'Climate Church' Study

Join Rev. Dale Azevedo for a five-week Adult Ed program focusing on Rev. Jim Antal's book, *Climate Church, Climate World*. We will be discussing the issues Jim raises in his book and the impacts some of his concerns and suggestions could have on our lives and in our church. This study will meet from 7 – 8 pm via Zoom on five **Mondays** throughout Lent on **Feb 22nd, and March 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd**. Please register with Dale (dale@bccucc.org) to receive the Zoom link.

The church owns 10 copies of the book that can be borrowed for this study, or you can choose to purchase your own copy through Barrington Books, Amazon, or your favorite book reseller. To borrow one of the church's copies, contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or (401) 245-4724.



Altar flower donors needed in February

There are openings on **Sundays, February 14th and 21st** for donors to pay for one or both vases of altar flowers. Cost is \$30 per vase. Altar flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event. If interested, please contact Jen Melker at jkmelker@gmail.com or (617) 877-1278.



'Cookie Creations' for children and families

On **Saturday February 13th at 9:30 am**, Andrea Bullard and Cindy Elder will be hosting "Cookie Creations" for the children and families of our church community. Join them on the patio (we will be using the outside heaters!) to decorate cookies for Valentine's Day. Each family will have their own table with the supplies they will need. We will be socially distanced, hand sanitizer will be available and masks are required. Refreshments will not be provided, but families are welcome to bring their own snacks and beverages. There will NOT be access to the building, so please plan ahead! If the weather is inclement, the decision to postpone will be made early that morning. **Please RSVP by February 10th** to Andrea at andrea@bccucc.org to secure your spot, and include a contact phone number and the number of people in your group. Let her know if you have any questions. It will be great to see each other again!



Good News! Women of Faith to meet virtually

The Women of Faith Reading Group is planning a virtual gathering. They will meet **Thursday, February 18th at 1:30 pm** on Zoom. New members are always welcome. If you are new to the reading group contact Christine in the church office (office@bccucc.org) so she can send you the zoom information for connecting on the 18th.



A Successful Blanket Drive

Pat and Andrea would like to thank the 14 families that

donated blankets and comforters last Saturday. They estimate that around 3 dozen or so were donated – they filled the back of Pat's SUV with the back seats down! She dropped them off to Tap-In on Monday and they were thrilled that we were able to donate so many for their clients. Once again, this congregation comes through when there is a need in the community.

Editor's note: Many thank to Pat Stoddard and Andrea Bullard for initiating and organizing this drive on behalf of the church.



Update on our COVID Commemoration Tile Project

Our congregation is coming together through ART! Many of you have already made your tile to add to our [virtual wall](#) on the church's new website.

We hope sometime this spring to create an outdoor display of the tiles at church for you to visit.

As we slowly work our way through the directory, one of the four of us will be reaching out to you to arrange your participation. *We are using contactless drop-off/pick-up methods arranged personally with each family.* The materials are also sanitized between use. It is our sincere hope to have EVERYONE in the congregation participate.

Any questions, please contact Joanne Ela (gsebse@me.com), Heather Williamson (williamsonheather300@gmail.com), Miriam Duvel (msduvel@cox.net), or Elizabeth Azevedo (eazevedo17@gmail.com)

Below are tiles created by congregation members. See more on our [virtual wall](#)



Help make Valentines to send from church - Kits available

Every year our Deacons organize a Valentine making event at coffee hour where the congregation get the opportunity to make valentines that are then sent from the church to our homebound and to those going through a difficult time, as well as to our students away at college. Despite the pandemic, this year is going to be no exception - we're just doing it a little differently.

Kits for creating valentines are available with envelopes addressed and ready to send. Participants just have to add their art and imagination with a heartfelt sentiment. If interested in getting a kit please contact Carol Strakosch at strakosc@gmail.com or (401) 451-8901.



Carol was at the Blanket Drive last Saturday giving out kits and will be at 'Bird Feeder Fun' on the terrace **this Sat, Jan 31st** from 9:30 am if you'd like to stop by and pick up a kit from her (be sure to wear a mask).

Names and addresses needed for our youth at college

If you have a youth away at college we'd like to send them a valentine from the church (see above). Please send their name and address to Carol Strakosch at strakosc@gmail.com. Thank you.

Ongoing happenings at BCCUCC

Weekly Meditative Coloring for Adults

Elizabeth Azevedo offers this online (Zoom) weekly meditative adult coloring small group on **Monday evenings at 7 pm** via Zoom for about 30 minutes. Each week, participants get the coloring page ahead of time so that when they meet virtually they can color together and discuss the “page” for the week. So come, relax and color an uplifting message together. If interested in participating, please email Elizabeth at eazevedo17@gmail.com.



Knitting for Others Group

The group meets virtually each month and will next meet on **Tuesday, February 2nd** at 7 pm via Zoom. All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend and new faces are very welcome. For more information on the group, contact Nancy Arena at 401 246-0212 or nancy.arena@outlook.com. For security reasons the zoom information is not included here. It was in the email sent to the congregation.



Book Group

The Book Group will next meet virtually via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 16th at 9:30 am**, to discuss *The Other American* by Laila Lamani. For more information about the group, contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate. For security reasons the zoom information is not included here. It was in the email sent to the congregation.

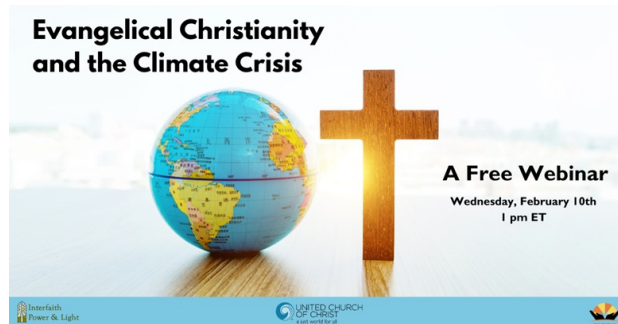


From the Mission and Justice Team

UCC's Creation Justice Webinars

A new webinar entitled *Evangelical Christianity and the Climate Crisis* will include Dr. Robin Veldman who authored *The Gospel of Climate Skepticism: Why Evangelical Christians Oppose Action on Climate Change*.

Even if you cannot make the scheduled time of **1 pm ET on Wed, Feb 10th**, still register, and you'll be sent a recording afterward. More info and sign-up now at <https://www.ucc.org/event/evangelical-christianity-and-the-climate-crisis/>



If you missed their January webinar entitled *What's Possible?: Faith and Climate Policy in 2021*, a recording of it is on YouTube [at this link](#)

Black History Month Teach-In Series

Go to this website Tinyurl.com/BlackStudiesFEB to register for any or all of four programs on Black History offered free by scholar

Marco McWilliams. The programs are **every Thursday in February** at **6 pm** starting February 4th. Topics are the Mau Mau Revolution, Black Cooperatives, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and Rhode Island's role in slavery. Contact Trinki Brueckner (401) 447 4742 or trinki49@gmail.com for more information, or check out the link above.



A virtual screening & discussion of 'PURPLE'

Did you know a study found 1 in 6 Americans stopped speaking to a family member or close friend after the 2016 election?

Barrington Public Library invites you to a Virtual Screening of PURPLE on **Thursday, February 4th at 7 pm** via **Zoom**. Following the screening will be an interactive discussion and workshop facilitated by trained mediator, Helen Kramer of Resetting the Table. [Register](#) to participate.



At a time of immense division, PURPLE tells the story of Americans with opposing viewpoints confronting their disagreements head-on and discovering the concerns and humanity that lie behind each other's positions.

A collaboration between Resetting the Table, a leading political mediation organization, and Landon Van Soest, an Emmy award winning filmmaker, PURPLE presents a rare political conversation that uplifts, provokes, and inspires while going toward the heat of passionate political differences. Filmed in rural Wisconsin and Iowa—in a swing region within two bordering swing states—PURPLE models what healthy public debate on fault-line issues can look like. Learn more at resettingthetable.org/purple

Special Election - from the League of Women Voters

In January the Governor of RI signed the 2021 fiscal year budget with \$400 million in bonds that voters must approve in a special election March 2.

Learn more at [Voter Information Handbook](#): A Guide to State Referenda and Voting Procedures in Rhode Island.

Voter Registration Deadline: 01/31/2021

Mail Ballot Application Deadline: 02/09/2021*

*The Emergency Ballot period extends from the Mail Ballot deadline up until 4pm the day before the election.

Read more at <https://my.lwv.org/rhode-island/event/general-election-bond-referenda>

In case you missed it

Dale's latest blog

The latest blog was written by Dale and titled 'Our Work Remains'. If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#)



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

Reminders

Keep yourself and others safe

The [BCCUCC Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings](#) is a one page document that all are asked to read and observe when they attend any BCCUCC outdoor gathering. Thank you.



Building Safety

A reminder that the church buildings remain closed until further notice. If you need to drop something off, or have asked to pick something up, the items can be deposited or retrieved from the white wooden "Church Mailbox" that's located at the top of the stairs by the office entrance, next to the boiler room door. We ask that people not enter the building. Thank you.

The office is closed but you can still reach us

Until further notice, the church office will remain closed. However you can still be in touch with the ministers and staff. You can either send an email or leave a message on the answering machine at the person's extension. Both emails and voice mail messages are checked regularly. Our contact information is:

Dale dale@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 103

Linda linda@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



Clergy Days off each week: Linda is off on Mondays and Dale is off on Fridays.

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THE END !