



January 5, 2023

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



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

For those unable to attend worship in person, our Sunday service is also livestreamed and can be watched at the following links on [our Facebook page](#), on [our website](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#) - either live or viewed later.

The Sunday worship bulletin is also posted to [our website](#) to make it easier to follow the service when watching online.

Sun, Jan 8

8:45 am FFAYM meeting, Library
10 am Worship Service (in-person and online), Church School
11 am Budget discussion, Sanctuary

Mon, Jan 9

5 - 6:30 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners (BIP) meeting
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Room 9
6:30 pm Buildings and Grounds meeting, Vestry

Tues, Jan 10

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
7 pm Church Council meeting via Zoom

Wed, Jan 11

10 am Prayer Service, Sanctuary
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Jan 12

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

Sat, Jan 14

9 am - Noon: East Bay Kids Clothes & Toy Swap, Fellowship Hall

Sun, Jan 15

10 am All Ages Worship Service (in-person and online)
11:30 am - 1 pm Confirmation Class, Room 9
12:30 - 4:30 pm Outside Use of Library

Mon Jan 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Office Closed

Tues, Jan 17

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
10:30 am Book Group, Library
7 pm Deacons Meeting, Library

Wed, Jan 18

10 am Prayer Service, Sanctuary
7 pm Mission and Justice Team meeting
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Jan 19

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

Sun, Jan 22 Laity Sunday

10 am Worship Service (in-person and online), Church School
2 pm Installation Service for Racquel Ray, Sanctuary
Reception following in Fellowship Hall

For the complete church calendar visit <http://bccucc.view-events.com>
Send calendar information to office@bccucc.org

Sunday, January 8th

Our new Music Director starts this Sunday!

An email was sent to the congregation yesterday announcing the appointment of Matthew Marion as the new Music Director at BCCUCC. **This Sunday, January 8** he'll be joining us for the first time and we do hope that you'll also be able to join us for our 10 am worship service. There will be an opportunity to meet and welcome Matthew at coffee hour in Fellowship Hall after the service.



Budget Discussion after church

There will be a discussion of the church's current financial situation and the 2023 budget **this Sunday, January 8** in the sanctuary immediately following worship. All are invited to attend and child care will be provided.

A letter was emailed to the congregation on 12/6/22 with information about our church's current financial situation, as well as a preliminary budget for 2023. The issues raised in the letter will be discussed at Sunday's meeting so we hope you'll be able to join us. If you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to reach out to Tom Colby, chair of our Finance Team at tcoby@fullchannel.net, or 401-578-4809.



Save the date of **Sunday, January 29** when the Annual Budget Meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the 10 am worship service.

2023 Contribution Envelopes

2023 Contribution Envelopes are available for pick up for those who requested them. If you come to church this Sunday you'll find a set with your name on it on the narthex table. If you haven't had them before but would like to start using envelopes in 2023, please contact Financial Secretary, Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 102) and she will assign you a set.



Confirmation Class postponed a week

Rev. Racquel Ray is feeling the aftereffects of having had COVID and feels it best to postpone this Sunday's confirmation class to the following **Sunday, January 15** when she hopes to have returned to her usual energy level and so can be better prepared for the class. Thank you for your understanding.

The Worship Tech Team needs YOU!!

Do you want to learn something new and help keep our Sunday service stream going to people who can't attend in person? Would you like to share some of your creativity? The Tech Team is looking for 2 or 3 people who are not afraid of technology to help with streaming our services. Comfort with Microsoft Windows and Powerpoint would be helpful. We will provide training to use the equipment/cameras. We look forward to working with new ideas and friends. If interested in learning more, please talk with a tech team member after church on Sunday morning, or contact Tom Colby at tcoby@fullchannel.net. Current Tech Team members are Tom Colby, Kim Colby, Laurie Dubel, and Erik Ela.



More news!

An update on our ministers

Dale and Racquel are both recovering well from COVID. They followed the CDC guidelines by quarantining for five days and are just now beginning to slowly work their way back into their regular schedules. They are doing better but are coping with typical post-COVID symptoms such as fatigue, dizziness, cough, and headaches. They both appreciate all the support and prayers the congregation offered. It may take a while before they're each fully recovered, and so they ask for your patience and prayers during the process. Thank you.

Racquel's Installation Service - save the date!

All are invited to the
Installation Service of
The Rev. Racquel Ray
as Associate Minister of Congregational Life
of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
on **Sunday, January 22nd, 2023**
at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of BCCUCC.
A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall



BCCUCC Loaves and Fishes Backpack Program

Thank you to the families that helped fill our 25 monthly bags of food in December that went to students at the DelSesto Middle School in Providence. Our next collection is **Sunday, January 22**. We continue to partner with *We Share Hope* (<https://wesharehope.org>) and *Books are Wings* (<https://www.booksarewings.org>) to provide food to those in need. BCC UCC supplements these 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, and jelly, oatmeal, canned tuna, rice and beans, pasta and sauce, fruit cups, granola bars and shelf stable pudding**. Please use [this sign-up genius link](#) to mark which items you plan to bring, or call the church office to sign up. Please be sure to indicate the number of items you are signing up to donate.



Packing of the bags will take place **Wednesday, January 25** 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.

East Bay Kids Clothing and Toy Swap

The swap returns on **Saturday, January 14** from 9 am – Noon in Fellowship Hall. It's a place to trade in clean (non-stained) clothes and shoes and get clothes the next size up! Ages newborn to 12 years old. Give what you can, take what you need! Toys can also be swapped. The swaps are now held seasonally so you don't want to miss it! \$5 donation at the door but no one turned away. More info <https://www.facebook.com/EastBayKidsClothesSwap>
To volunteer with the swap, email Rlkidswap@gmail.com



Thank You

Thank you to all who turned our 'trying' Christmas Eve into a 'blessing'

What a wild Christmas weekend we had! We didn't expect to get flooded out, have the heat fail, or face brutally cold temperatures, but we did. And...we overcame. We want to lift up a great and special "Thank You" to everyone who helped make our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services so meaningful.

- First, to everyone who came out on Friday night to



move our chancel items into fellowship hall along with all the poinsettias and Advent decorations, thank you! You are each a blessing!

- Next, to everyone who participated in our Christmas Eve services, from actors to readers, to candle-lighters, to setter-uppers, to costume helpers, to the choir, to readers, and everyone else, thank you. You were great! Both services were moving and we especially want to celebrate the Christmas stroll which, although it was inside, had some great scenes set up by our families. Yay!
- Finally, to Paul Dennis and to Jay and Phyllis Buckley who went WAY above the call of duty working on heat in both buildings and to set up and clean up so much, thank you!

These are the times that make being a part of a church family so memorable and meaningful. Thank you.



Photo credits: Gloria Hwang-Forzano.

If anyone else has photos from the Christmas Story Stroll, please send them to the church office at office@bccucc.org. Thank you.

Thanks for donations to the Chancel Fund

Many thanks to everyone who made a donation to the Chancel Fund this Christmas. The fund was used to pay for all of the Christmas plants that were delivered by our deacons to the homebound, sick and recently bereaved. The fund also paid for all of the poinsettias and other plants used to decorate the sanctuary from Advent through Christmas, as well as the boxwood wreaths on the front doors of the church. Thank you to the Deacons and to the Chancel Team for their roles in these ministries.

Unfortunately as noted above, the sanctuary plants all had to be moved to Fellowship Hall when the heating in the church broke on 12/23. The space was made to look very festive and the plants were enjoyed by those who attended worship in Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you weren't able to attend those services, here is the [list of Chancel Fund donors and their dedications](#).



Thanks to all who reached out to our neighbors!

The Mission and Justice Team would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations to the Giving Tree and to the Mitten Tree this Christmas.

All monies donated to the **Giving Tree** went to [The Women's Resource Center](#) who help domestic violence survivors and their families in Bristol and Newport Counties.

The hats, gloves, and scarves etc donated to the **Mitten Tree** in the sanctuary (photo right) have been taken to [House of Hope CDC](#) - an organization that is working to end homelessness in RI, and also provides services to those who need shelter.



Thank you from the lay staff

Once again the congregation has been generous in their donations to the Staff Christmas Gift for which we are most grateful. Your donations remind us of how much our work is appreciated, which means a lot. Every Tuesday morning we gather as a staff with the clergy, and before doing the business of the church, we briefly share our own joys and concerns. We are blessed to work in such a caring environment. Many thanks for your gift and for being such a wonderful and supportive congregation! We wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2023.

From *Christine, Pat, Andrea, Jay and Frank.*



From the BCCUCC Green Team

'What Is a Sustainable Economy?' - a webinar

UCC Environmental Webinar on **Wednesday, January 11** at 1 pm ET

What Is a Sustainable Economy? [Learn more and register.](#)

With powerful industries based on extractive and exploitative practices, our economy has been a train barreling toward increasing environmental disaster. The fate of humanity and our planet can no longer continue on this track, but crucial questions remain: What is a sustainable economy? What will it look like? What must change? What costs might it entail? And, how will it be achieved? For people of faith, these questions are engaged from a place that prioritizes matters of equity, justice, and the common good. To help us think through these issues, this webinar will feature Edith Rasell who recently authored the book, "The Way of Abundance: Economic Justice in Scripture and Society."

Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time, still [sign-up](#), and they will send you a link to a recording of it.

Ongoing groups / activities

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. They next meet on **Mon, Jan 23**. For more information contact either of the facilitators, Betsy Brenner at betsybrenner3@gmail.com or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at aubreyfolk@aol.com or (401) 392-1909.



Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, January 17** at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Coffee Chats with Racquel

Rev. Racquel invites you to join her at Thrive Tribe Café, 60 Maple Avenue, Barrington from **8:30 am – 9:30 am** on **Thursday Mornings** for Coffee Chats. She will be there every Thursday morning and hopes to see you there any time you can make it! All are welcome.



Knitting for Others Group meets in person and online

These knitters get together on the first Tuesday to knit items to be donated - prayer shawls, baby hats, etc. They chose not to meet in January so will next meet on **Tuesday, February 7** from 6:30 – 9 pm and participants have the option to either meet in person in the church library or meet over zoom. Feel free to stop by 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.
Zoom information isn't included here for security reasons but is in the version emailed to the congregation.



Prayer Service

On Wednesday mornings in the Sanctuary at **10 am** all are invited to join Rev. Racquel for a brief prayer service to pray for the church congregation and clergy, the community, family and friends, and themselves.



Women of Faith Reading Group

The group meets 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. They welcome women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. Their first meeting in 2023 will be on **Thursday, January 19**. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net



Youth Group

The Youth Group is led by Rev. Racquel and welcomes all in Grades 5 - 8. They gather most weeks throughout the year on **Mondays** from **6 - 7pm** for fun and fellowship, a simple dinner (usually pizza) and a closing prayer service. Youth Group gatherings resume on **Mondays, January 9, 23 & 30**. For more information, including the schedule for the entire



year, see page 12 of the [2022-23 Guide to Faith Formation](#) or contact Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x104.

Note: Youth participating in programs at church must be [registered](#).

Worth repeating

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Dale and titled *What Child Is This?* 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

[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.

Sunday mornings at BCCUCC

Services livestreamed to Facebook, website and YouTube

All are invited to join us for our **multi-platform worship service at 10 am**. Masks are optional but we do ask that if you're feeling unwell or have symptoms, that you please stay home and watch online. We continue to run large HEPA air filters in the sanctuary and also have HEPA air filters in most spaces in our Education building.



+



For those unable to join us in person, the services are livestreamed so they can be watched online - either live or later - in three different places*:

- the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc
- the Livestream page of the church website <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>
- and [our church's YouTube Channel](#)

There's also a link to the [Sunday bulletin](#) on our livestream page.

*Occasionally, Facebook doesn't allow us to stream to their platform, and on those occasions it's not possible to watch the service on Facebook. However, you should still be able to find the service on YouTube and on our church website at the links above.

Nursery Care

The **Nursery** is open every Sunday morning to provide loving care for infants and children aged 0 - 3 years old. Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off their child/children in the nursery located in the

Education building before going to the worship service.

The **Nursery Nook**, located directly below the sanctuary, is another option for parents with wiggly children of any age to retreat to and still hear the service on the loud speaker down there.

We love the sound of children in worship so parents are welcome to keep their infants and children with them in the sanctuary if they wish. For those who would prefer to worship without distraction, we provide these other options.



Church School classes

Children from PreK through grade 8 attend the first part of worship service in the sanctuary with their families, then after the children's message (or communion on the first Sunday) they leave to go to their Church School classes in the Education building. Their teachers will accompany them. More information about the different church school classes are on pages 9 & 10 of the [2022-2023 Guide to Faith Formation](#)

On All Ages Worship Sundays, the children remain in the sanctuary for the entire time and the service is more child friendly.



From the church office

Deadlines for Announcements and eBridge

The deadline for receiving information for inclusion in the eBridge and the Sunday Announcements is **Noon on the Wednesday prior to publication.**

Deadline for next eBridge is **Wed, Jan 18**. Send information to Christine at office@bccucc.org.



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.



Online donations to the church through our website

Our church website (www.bccucc.org) is capable of accepting online donations. [Watch a brief video](#) (30 secs) on how to do this, or read the following instructions: There's a red 'DONATE' button on the right side of the black menu bar near the top of each page of the website. Clicking on it will take you to the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page. In the middle is a link to Tithe.ly through which you can make a donation to the church either using a credit card or directly from your bank. (No need to set up an account). You are also able to designate where you would like your donation to go (pledge, gift, memorial gift, Deacons' Fund, etc).



Questions? Contact Pat Stoddard, Financial Secretary at pat@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 102.

[Visit the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page.](#) OR you can use this QR code to take you directly to our giving page.



Contact us

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Connect with us



Visit our website

Join Our Email List

THE END !