



November 18, 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! 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.

Thurs, Nov 18

8 am Peaceful Pause and Prayer, Livestreamed
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group meet, Library
7 pm RI Association Annual Meeting on Zoom (*rescheduled*)

Sat, Nov 20

9 - 11 am East Bay Kids Clothes and Toy Swap, Fellowship Hall
6 - 8 pm Senior Youth Group Movie Night

Sun, Nov 21 Thanksgiving Sunday

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online), Advent Arts during Church School time
Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)

Mon, Nov 22

11 am Bereavement Group meet, Fellowship Hall
6 - 7 pm Junior Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

Wed, Nov 24 - Fri, Nov 26

Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Sun, Nov 28 First Sunday of Advent

10 am All Ages Worship Service (in-person & online)
Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)

Mon, Nov 29

6 - 7 pm Junior Youth Group, Fellowship Hall

Tues, Nov 30

11 am Staff Meeting

Wed, Dec 1

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*
7 pm Membership Team meeting

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thurs, Dec 2

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

Sun, Dec 5 Second Sunday of Advent

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

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

Thurs Nov 18th thru Sun Nov 21st

RI Association Annual Meeting is Thurs, Nov 18th

The Southeast Region of SNEUCC Annual Fall Gathering and the various Association meetings scheduled for Oct 27th had to be postponed as many people in the area were without power due to the storms.

The **RI Association Meeting** has been rescheduled for **Thursday, November 18th** at 7 pm on Zoom. [Registration is required.](#)

A new date for the SE Region Annual Fall Gathering is tbd.

Senior Youth Group 'Movie Night'

Senior Youth Group meets this **Saturday, November 20th** in the Library for Movie Night. This is open to all High School students (grades 9-12) and they may bring a friend. Movie will be selected by the group. Popcorn provided. **RSVP** to racquel@bccucc.org



Dale's last Sunday before his sabbatical

We hope you will join us for worship this **Sunday, November 21st** which will be the last time Rev. Dale Azevedo will lead worship and preach for a while, as his 3 month sabbatical begins Nov 22nd. It's also Thanksgiving Sunday - so we invite you to come to worship remembering all of the people, experiences and things for which you're thankful. If you can't join us in person, we invite you to worship with us online.

Advent Arts for our church school children

Advent Arts is **Sunday, November 21st** in Fellowship Hall during church school time. There will be some new crafts this year in addition to old favorites, so we hope all the children will join us for this fun event.



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, and have [new updated guidelines](#) in place. If you plan to worship with us in person in the sanctuary we ask that you read them ahead of time.

For those who are not yet ready to return to our sanctuary, or are not able to, the services are livestreamed so they can be watched online at the same links as before:



www.facebook.com/bccucc or <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>. If you miss the service live, you can watch it later at the same links. We invite you to join us for worship - in person or online.

Just some of the new things in this eBridge!

Carriage shed work begins

We're pleased to report that work is finally underway on the carriage shed repairs. Catanzaro and Sons have been working hard to repair and repaint them, and some additional repairs are still pending. The roof is also scheduled to be replaced. A before and some after pictures are below. Thank you to everyone who donated to the fundraiser that made this project possible.



Junior Youth Group meetings

After a very energetic and fun Junior Youth Group meeting last week it is clear that we have several middle school youth who would like to participate in Youth Group. Junior Youth Group will meet **weekly on Monday nights** from **6-7 pm**. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **Nov 22nd and 29th** in Fellowship Hall. (No JYG on Dec 6th as school is closed that day.)

We need an **adult chaperone** to assist Pastor Racquel each week. And we can also use some **volunteers** to bring dinners on a rotating basis. Sign-ups are at church school and by emailing racquel@bccucc.org. All youth in grades 6 - 8 are welcome to be a part of Junior Youth Group (JYG).



Office closings and staff vacation

The church office will be closed Wed, Nov 24th - Fri, Nov 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Office Administrator, Christine Wallis, will be on vacation from Mon, Nov 22nd thru Tues, Nov 30th.

Stewardship Update & request for Giving Cards to be returned

On a picture-perfect day, approximately 90 folks attended the Consecration Sunday Lunch on Nov. 7th to celebrate the culmination of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign.



To date, the church has received 67 Giving Cards from members and friends making a financial commitment for 2022. Almost half of these cards are increased commitments over 2021. The total commitment amount for 2022 so far is \$297,014 – many thanks to those that have already made a commitment. We hope to receive many more Giving Cards so we can continue to build on the mission and work of our church. Giving Cards were mailed last week to those who were unable to join us on Consecration Sunday.

If you intend to return a Giving Card for 2022, we hope to hear from you as soon as possible. Our Finance Team and Church Council are working hard on the 2022 budget and many of their decisions are based on these financial commitments. You may mail in your Giving Card, place it in the Offering Plate, or email Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org) with your financial commitment and she will confirm receipt of your email and the amount.

Thank you for “Opening the Doors to Gratitude and Generosity”.

Pastor Racquel Ray to become full time at BCCUCC

Beginning Monday, November 22nd – when Dale’s sabbatical begins - Racquel Ray will move from being half-time to become our full-time acting Associate Minister and will continue to be full-time until a settled associate minister is called. We are grateful to Racquel for her willingness to take on this role and are confident that she will be able to lead and minister to us during Dale’s time away on sabbatical. She has also arranged for two other clergy to be further support if necessary.



More information about pastoral coverage during Dale's sabbatical was in an [email sent to the congregation](#) on Nov 10th.

All Ages Worship

Our next All Ages Worship Service is on the First Sunday of Advent, **November 28th** at 10 am. Our Church School and Youth Group participants are invited to assist Andrea and Pastor Racquel with the service. Contact Pastor Racquel or Andrea if you're interested racquel@bccucc.org or andrea@bccucc.org



Update to our COVID Safety Guidelines/Requirements

As we continue to move forward in the pandemic, and also prepare for the Advent season, Church Council discussed and agreed to the following changes to our protocols at Church.

1. In order to accommodate increased attendance, we will first have ushers seat people in every other pew. Once those seats are filled, ushers will seat in open pews.
2. With the season changing and keeping windows open less feasible, we will be purchasing and installing HEPA filters in the corners of the sanctuary.
3. We will continue to require masks be worn by everyone - with the exception of those under age 2, those with a medical reason not to, and those leading worship.

4. Singing will still be allowed but done quietly
These changes will be in place **starting Sunday, December 5th.**

Additional ushers needed

You may have noticed that many of the same people are serving as ushers each week as we currently have a shortage of volunteers. We invite you to join them and become an usher. It's a great way to serve the church and be a friendly face to all who come to worship in our sanctuary – especially newcomers! The more people who volunteer to usher, the less often each person will be on the schedule. Ushers are asked to arrive a little early to prepare the sanctuary for worship, hand out bulletins and seat people, collect the offering, and clear up after the service. All are welcome to serve as an usher and training will be provided. To volunteer or for more information, contact Bethia Rosner at (401) 383-5538 or bethiarosner@gmail.com or speak with her after worship. Thank you.



Walking and/or Biking buddy wanted

A senior member of our congregation who lives in Riverside is looking for someone to walk and/or bike with. They'd be short walks (up to 1.5 miles) but he'd really appreciate the motivation of doing it with someone else. If interested or for more information, please contact the church office (401) 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org



Advent and Christmas at BCCUCC

Advent Daily Prayer for Reflection

Advent begins Sunday, November 28th and is the season in the church year when we prepare for the birth of Christ. To help with preparation we are making available 'Advent Daily Prayers for Reflection' based on readings for each week of Advent from the Revised Common Lectionary. Click on the links below to access them:

[Week 1 of Advent \(Nov 28 - Dec 4\)](#)

[Week 2 of Advent \(Dec 5 - 11\)](#)

[Week 3 of Advent \(Dec 12 - 18\)](#)

[Week 4 of Advent \(Dec 19-24\)](#)



For those who would prefer a paper copy, there's a printed version which can be picked up from the narthex table. Unfortunately, the printed version doesn't contain the colorful images included with each day's prayer – you'll have to go online to see those.

Advent Candle Lighters needed

Volunteers are needed to read the short liturgy and light the Advent Candles on **Sundays, December 5th, 12th & 19th**, and the **Christmas Eve 8 pm** services. Volunteers should contact Pastor Racquel at (401) 246-0111 x 104 or racquel@bccucc.org. Individuals, couples or families are invited to do this.



Chancel Fund donations requested

Every Christmas we invite the congregation to make donations to The Chancel Fund which is used to pay for the plants that decorate the

sanctuary at Christmas, as well as the plants that are delivered by the Deacons to our homebound, sick and recently bereaved. Donations to the Chancel Fund, in any amount, may be made in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for, or celebration of, someone or something (a person, birthday, anniversary, etc). The donors and dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.



There are now two ways to make a donation to the Chancel Fund:

EITHER: [Download a Chancel Fund donation form at this link](#), fill out the requested information then drop off /mail to the church office or put in the offering plate, together with a donation check in any amount.

OR: [Donate online from our church website](#). Use the Tithe.ly link on our donation page, designate your donation for 'Chancel Fund (Christmas flowers)' and then add your dedication in the memo box. Be sure to include who is making the donation as well as if it's given in memory, celebration, or in honor of someone or something.

[Video on how to donate online from our website](#) (only 30 secs long)

We ask that all donations and dedications be received in the church office **by Monday, December 13th**. Thank you for your donation.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Our Christmas Eve services on **Friday, December 24th, 2021** will be:

4 - 5 pm Christmas Story Stroll, Riverwalk (see below)

8 pm Service of Lessons and Carols with Choir, Sanctuary

ALL ARE WELCOME



The Christmas Story Stroll is coming on Christmas Eve!

As only BCCUCC can do, the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry (FFaYM) team has designed an outdoor live nativity for this year's pageant from **4 - 5 pm** on **Christmas Eve**. Called '**The Christmas Story Stroll**' it will feature 5 stations depicting the different parts of the Christmas Story along the Riverwalk behind the education building and church. Beginning at the large commuter parking lot, the community is welcome to grab a warm cider, and listen to Christmas carols as they stroll the Christmas Story from Gabriel and Mary to the Magi visiting the baby Jesus in the Manger.



Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex and on Sign-up genius (see below).

Volunteers are needed to depict the characters from the nativity story, plus a reader, at each station. All ages are welcome to sign up. Perhaps a family, or a particular group of people (say from a specific church team) might want to sign up to depict the characters at a particular station. Individuals are also very welcome to sign up. [Sign up for parts](#)

Volunteers are also needed to help with lighting, sound, and refreshments.

Details are in the sign up. [Sign up for behind the scenes help](#)

Questions? Contact Pastor Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104 or Andrea Bullard at andrea@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 107

Readers needed for Christmas Eve 8 pm service of Lessons & Carols

Our Lessons and Carols service will be in the Church at **8 pm**

on **Christmas Eve**. This moving service will be accompanied by our talented choir and perhaps a soloist. Volunteers are needed for each of the readings. Please email Pastor Racquel racquel@bccucc.org or call (401) 246-0111 ext 104 to volunteer.



Opportunities to help - deadlines approaching!

TAPIN seeks monetary donations for their Thanksgiving program

Pre-pandemic, BCCUCC would collect specific food items for donation to TAPIN's Thanksgiving Food program. This year, due to COVID 19 restrictions, they are only able to provide gift cards to their clients. If anyone would like to help TAPIN, they would greatly appreciate monetary donations to purchase the gift cards that will help their clients buy Thanksgiving meals. Lately, their client numbers have increased significantly, and they hope to provide gift cards to everyone who needs one.

Tax-deductible contributions in any amount may be sent directly to Tap-In, P.O. Box 252, Barrington, RI 02806, or can be made on their website at www.tapinri.org



The Giving Tree - deadline for donations is Nov 30th!

The Mission and Justice Team is excited to again support the Women's Resource Center and domestic violence survivors and their families in Bristol County during the holidays. Their need is greater than ever due to the pandemic. As we are unable to meet in Fellowship Hall, donations should be given to the church office as cash, check, or online through Tithe.ly on the church website. The Women's Resource Center will use the donations to buy gift cards for families in need. We are hoping to bring holiday joy to as many families as possible.

How to make a donation: Checks should be made out to "BCCUCC" with "Giving Tree" written in the memo line. For online donations on the church website, click the link <https://bccucc.org/donation/> to take you to the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page. In the middle is a link to Tithe.ly through which you can make a donation either using a credit card or directly from your bank. Use the drop-down menu to go to 'GivingTree.' The **donation deadline is Tuesday, November 30th.**

Questions? Contact Nancy Arena at nancy.arena@outlook.com (401-246-0212) or Lory McCoy at lsnadymccoy@gmail.com (401-369-2341). Thank you for your donation!



Donate Red Scarves for HIV/AIDs awareness and to provide warmth

The Knitting for Others Group will be knitting to support those affected by HIV/Aids in Rhode Island for World AIDs Day (December 1, 2021). AIDS Project Rhode Island (APRI) is bringing the **Red Scarf movement** to RI, which seeks to end the stigma and raise awareness around HIV.

APRI is inviting the RI community to **knit, make or donate RED scarves** which will be displayed on the Providence Pedestrian Bridge on Sunday, December 1st from 6 am to 6 pm. This art installation will serve as a visual reminder of those lost and provide a distanced way for our community to come together in a show of support in a safe, impactful way. At the conclusion of the week, all scarves will be removed and donated to vulnerable community members to provide comfort and warmth to people who are at increased risk for HIV.

All are invited to donate red scarves which should be a minimum size of 6" x 60".



Scarves can be dropped off at the church office **by November 29th**. Red scarves can also be donated on December 1st directly to a volunteer at the Providence Pedestrian Bridge.

For more information go to <https://aidsprojectri.org/red/> or contact Nancy Arena nancy.arena@outlook.com or Helen Schall helenschall@hotmail.com.

Ongoing

'Peaceful Pause and Prayer' on hiatus until March

During Dale's sabbatical, these online meditations will no longer be available live. However, all of the past meditations can be found at the following link: <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/> Each meditation provides moments for reflection, music, scripture, and silence. Dale plans to resume doing PP&P live on March 1, 2022 after he returns from his sabbatical.



Bereavement Group to meet

The Bereavement group will meet on **Mondays, November 22nd and December 13th** from 11 a.m. - Noon 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 jsbeeb@aol.com or 245-8031.



Women of Faith Reading Group

The group will meet again on **Thursday, December 2nd** 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. They will be reading and discussing sections of *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister. For more information please contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net.



Knitting for Others Group

The Knitting Group will meet again on **Tuesday, December 7th** at 7 pm over 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.

Zoom info is not included here for security reasons. It was in the email version sent to the congregation.



Book Group for November

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, December 14th** at a location and time tbd. They will be discussing *Deacon King Kong* by Jamie McBride. For more information about the group - and to find out the time and location - contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate.

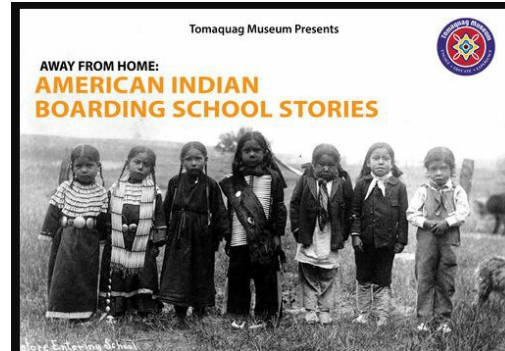


From the Mission and Justice Team

Native American Heritage Month - Exhibition

Beginning in the 1870s, the US government attempted to assimilate American Indians by putting their children into boarding schools. This often tragic story in our country's history has recently become more public. Now the National Endowment for the Humanities highlights this history in a national touring exhibition – *Away from Home: Native American Boarding School Stories*.

The RI Tomaquag Museum is hosting the exhibit, which runs from 11/10/21 to 1/7/21, Tuesday – Saturday at URI University Club, 95 Upper College Rd., Kingston. For more information see www.tomaquagmuseum.org/awayfromhome [Flier](#)



Be a part of the BCCUCC Green Team

Are you passionate about the environment? Do you believe the church has an important part to play in caring for God's Creation as a part of faithful discipleship? If you answered Yes, then please consider joining the BCCUCC Green Team. What is a green team? A Green Team (or Environmental Stewardship Team, or Creation Care Committee) is a core group of people in a congregation who are committed to raising awareness about the urgent need to protect God's Creation and to work for environmental sustainability, justice and responsibility within the church and in the larger community. Green Team members can also offer each other a sense of community and moral support in these discouraging times.



If you would be interested in joining, or finding out more, please contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com.

The Green Team will meet on **Monday, December 6th** at **7 pm** in the library. All interested are welcome.

You might also like to explore additional resources around the green church movement at these links within the UCC and elsewhere:

<https://www.sneucc.org/green-congregation-challenge>

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>

<https://greenfaith.org/>

<https://blessedtomorrow.org/>

Members of the Barrington Community organize a Donation Drive in support of Refugees from Afghanistan

Hi Neighbors! We are collecting items in support of the Refugee Dream Center in Providence this **Saturday, November 20th** from **9am-4pm** at **84 Governor Drive, Barrington**.

Currently, families have begun to arrive and will need assistance establishing a home. Below is a list of items that they are most in need of (they cannot accept used clothing or bedding): - NEW bedding - pillows, sheet sets, blankets, comforters (for children and adults) - NEW clothing, shoes & outerwear for adults/children/babies - all sizes - NEW small appliances (rice cooker, toaster oven, hair dryer, coffee maker) - Diapers and baby formula - Full size toiletries & feminine products - Non-perishable food (rice, vegetable/olive oil, pasta, marinara sauce, cereal, baby/toddler food) Think bulk amounts of products that can make a meal to feed a family.

Questions? Please reach out to Kristie McCann at kristieimccann@gmail.com or



Reminders

The Pastors' Blog 'From the River's Edge'

The latest blog was written by Dale titled 'Plans for my sabbatical adventure'. If you missed it earlier you can [read it here](#).



Community News

East Bay Kids Clothes and Toy Swap

The next swap will take place on **Saturday, November 20th** from 9 am - 11 am in Fellowship Hall. Please bring items to be swapped in clean and good condition. Trade in clothes, shoes or gently used toys, and get new (to you) items. Size newborn to age 12. There's a \$5 donation at the door, but no-one is turned away. *Masks must be worn.*



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.



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

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
- while leading worship



Education building is open with some important requirements

The education building re-opened on Sept 1st 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

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

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

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 !