



December 1, 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

*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.

Thurs, Dec 1

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library
6:30 pm Green Team meeting

Sun, Dec 4 Advent 2

10 am Worship Service with Communion (in-person and online), Church School
At Coffee Hour: Youth Group Cookie Bake Sale, Fellowship Hall
11:30 am - 1 pm Confirmation Class (rescheduled from 11/13), Room 9

Mon, Dec 5

6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall and Room 9

Tues, Dec 6

11 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others group, Library and via Zoom

Wed, Dec 7

10 am Prayer Service, Sanctuary
7 pm Advent by Candlelight, Sanctuary
7:45 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Dec 8

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

Sun, Dec 11 Advent 3

10 am Worship Service (in-person and online), Church School
11:30 am - 1 pm Confirmation Class, Room 9

Mon Dec 12

Deadline for Chancel Fund donations

10 - 11 am Bereavement Group, Library

5- 6 pm BIP meeting

6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall and Room 9

7 pm Buildings and Grounds meeting, Vestry

Tues, Dec 13

11 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

7 pm Church Council meeting, Zoom

Wed, Dec 14

10 am Prayer Service, Sanctuary

Noon Deadline for eBridge

4 pm Packing bags for LFRI backpack program, Fellowship Hall

7 pm Advent by Candlelight, Sanctuary

7:45 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Dec 15

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

Noon: Women of Faith Reading Group Lunch, Library

Sun, Dec 18 Advent 4

UCC Christmas Fund offering

10 am Worship Service (in-person and online), Church School

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

Youth Group Cookie Bake Sale is this Sunday!

Our youth are sponsoring a cookie bake sale during coffee hour **this Sunday, December 4**. They are raising funds for youth events and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the Samaritans Rhode Island "Bridges of Hope" campaign to raise awareness around teen mental well-being. Youth will be baking and selling cookies with the support of their families. Congregation members are welcome to donate additional home-made Christmas cookies for the youth to sell. Contact Rev. Racquel racquel@bccucc.org to help or bring them along on Sunday! Thank you.



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.

Donation forms and envelopes will again be included in the church bulletins on December 4 and 11. You can also make a donation to the Chancel Fund by....



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.

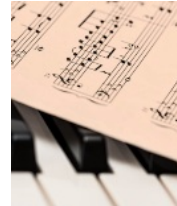
OR: [Donate online from our church website](#). Use the Tithe.ly link on our donation page, designate your donation for 'Chancel Fund (Christmas flowers)' and then add your dedication in the memo box. Be sure to include who is making the donation as well as if it's given in memory, celebration, or in 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 12**. Thank you for your donation.

Welcome to our Interim Music Director

It is with joy and gratitude that we welcomed Margaret Clark to our BCCUCC family on Sunday, November 27th. Margaret has been a longtime member of the American Guild of Organists and currently serves as a substitute organist/pianist throughout southern New England. She comes to us as our Interim Music Director while we begin our search for Marina Zabinski's successor. Everyone be sure to say, "hello," to Margaret and welcome her to our church family.



Stewardship Campaign Update

The Stewardship Campaign for the 2023 calendar year wrapped up on Consecration Sunday, November 13. We have received 72 Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards so far; our initial results are promising, but there are still many anticipated commitments outstanding. If you have not yet participated, but intend to do so, please return your EOG card as soon as possible.

It is more important than ever for our church to financially support local aid organizations, as the community need continues to be great. Your contributions will allow us to continue to connect with our neighbors in this way. Preparation of the 2023 budget is well under way and many decisions are based on the Estimates of Giving from our members and friends. The Church Council will meet on December 13 to review the preliminary budget.

If you did not submit an EOG card by Consecration Sunday you were mailed an EOG card a few days later.. You can mail in your card or place it in the offering plate. You may also email Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org) with your Estimate of Giving for 2023, and she will confirm receipt of your email and the amount. You can also call the Church Office and leave a message (you will receive a return call to verify your commitment). Thank you in advance for your continued support.



Advent and Christmas Services at BCCUCC

Advent by Candlelight - 'Were You There?'

Rediscover the mystery of Advent and the Miracle of the Christmas Child on Wednesday nights in the church. Join Revs Dale and Racquel as they read the Christmas story from the perspectives of the Biblical participants: Gabriel, Zachariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Mary. We'll share the story and save



space for prayer and quiet following Penelope J. Stokes' book *The Miracle of the Christmas Child*.

This contemplative candle lit service will be in the sanctuary at **7pm** on the remaining **Wednesdays of Advent, December 7, 14, and 21**. All are welcome to come as they are able.

Christmas Worship Services

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** services on **Saturday, December 24**:

4 - 5 pm Christmas Story Stroll, *Riverwalk behind the education building*.

This is an outdoor live nativity where guests are invited to stroll through the Christmas Story in a family friendly and safe way. Beginning at the large commuter parking lot, all are welcome to grab a warm cider and cookies, and listen to Christmas carols as they stroll the Christmas Story from Gabriel and Mary to the Magi visiting the child in the manger. The Christmas Story Stroll is open and accessible to all.



8 pm Service of Lessons and Carols, *Sanctuary and livestreamed*.

This traditional service will be held in the church and will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. It will feature music from the choir and congregational singing of carols.

On **CHRISTMAS DAY, Sunday, December 25**:

10 am Worship Service, *Sanctuary*

ALL ARE WELCOME

Volunteer Opportunities

Advent Candle Lighters needed

Volunteers are needed to read the short liturgy and light the Advent candles at the 10 am service on **Sundays, December 4, 11 & 18**, and at the 8 pm service on **Christmas Eve**.

Volunteers can be individuals, couples or families.

To volunteer for any of these dates, contact Rev. Dale Azevedo at dale@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 103. Thank you.



Christmas Story Stroll - volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to depict characters at the various stations of this outdoor nativity or be a reader at one of the stations. All ages are welcome to sign up. Individuals can sign up, or a family or group can sign up to fill all the slots at a particular station. Sign up sheets are in the church narthex, or [sign up online for parts](#).



Volunteers are also needed behind the scenes to do sound, lighting, costumes, provide refreshments, and set up or clean up. Sign up on the sheets in the church narthex or [sign up online to help behind the scenes](#)

Last year we hosted this community event with well over 150 visitors walking the Christmas Story Stroll through our riverwalk pathway behind the education building.

Questions or for more information please contact Racquel racquel@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 104, or Andrea andrea@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x107.

Christmas Eve Readers needed

Several volunteers are needed to read scripture at the **8 pm Christmas Eve** service of Lessons and Carols. To learn more or to volunteer contact Rev. Dale Azevedo at (401) 246-0111 x103 or dale@bccucc.org.



'Tis the season of giving

Giving Tree

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 food insecurity, financial hardship, and the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. The Women's Resource Center will use donations to buy gift cards for families in need. We are hoping to bring holiday joy to as many families as possible. Donations should be given to the church office as cash, check, or online through Tithe.ly on the church website. Checks should be made out to "BCCUCC" with "Giving Tree" written in the memo line. For online donations from the church website, click on <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 have your donation go to 'Women's Resource Center.'



The Women's Resource Center would prefer to receive donations **by December 3**, so that the WRC staff have time to buy the gift cards and present them to families. However, Mission & Justice will run the campaign **through December 25**. All monies raised, both before and after December 3, will be given to the Women's Resource Center.

Questions? Contact Nancy Arena at nancy.arena@outlook.com (401-246-0212). Thank you for your donation!

Mitten Tree

The Mission and Justice Team has again set up a Mitten Tree to receive donations of warm hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens etc. - both purchased and handmade - for children, youth, and adults of all sizes.

This year the mitten tree is upstairs **in the sanctuary** and will remain there **through the end of December** to receive donations. The congregation is asked to place their donated items on or under the tree before or after the worship service.

All donated items will be given to organizations serving individuals and families experiencing financial hardship.

If anyone wishes to make a donation, but is not currently attending in-person worship, please contact Nancy Arena at (401) 246-0212 or nancy.arena@outlook.com to arrange for pick-up. Thank you for your donation!



UCC Christmas Fund

The UCC Christmas Fund offering will be taken on **Sunday, December 18**. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100

★
THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Learn more at <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>. Donations may be made during worship on December 18 or at your convenience - by check payable to 'BCCUCC' with 'UCC Christmas Fund' in memo line; by cash using a pew envelope and noting 'UCC Christmas Fund' under 'other'; online at our website donation page <https://bccucc.org/donation/> using Tithe.ly and designating it for the 'UCC Christmas Fund'; or directly at <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>. Thank you.

Staff End of Year / Christmas Gift

A message from Dale and Racquel...

"During advent you will find in the pew racks an envelope marked "Staff Christmas Gift." We are blessed to have wonderful people working here who give more hours to our church than expected or are compensated for. We therefore invite you to join with us in giving them a gift during these holidays. Your gifts will be divided up among several different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea who works with our children, and Jay and Frank on the custodial staff. Each staff person will receive this gift according to the number of hours they work. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity."



Please make checks payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'Staff Gift'. They can be put in the offering plate or sent to the office. It's also possible to make an online donation using Tithe.ly from our church website's donation page <https://bccucc.org/donation/> and choosing 'Staff Christmas Gift' in the drop-down menu. Thank you.

Thanks for 'Reaching Out....to Neighbor'

Thank You for Welcome Home Baskets

Earlier this fall, the congregation generously donated Welcome Home Baskets to residents of Crossroads who had recently or were going to be moving into permanent housing. 43 baskets were donated on 10/9 and an additional 2 baskets came in later and were just delivered to Crossroads - making a total of 45 baskets filled with essential items needed when setting up a home!! Rev, Racquel received a thank you note from Ric Wild which she wanted to share with the congregation. [Read it here](#).

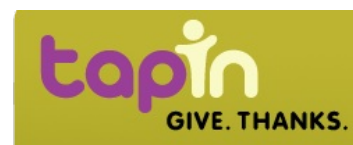


In addition, Christine in the church office received a lovely phone call from a man called Gregory who had received one of our baskets. He was extremely appreciative and had been homeless prior to staying at Crossroads. Included in his basket was a card from 'Leo and Evvy' that had the church's name on it. He was filled with gratitude for this gift from our church as well as his new permanent home.

Thank You for Thanksgiving Food donations

BCCUCC collected 308 lbs of food for TapIn's Thanksgiving Food program, as well as some financial donations. TapIn was able to provide a grocery gift card and a Thanksgiving 'starter kit' to well over 700 families. We received a [note of thanks](#) from them.

Thank you to all who donated, and to the Mission and Justice Team for organizing it.



The need continues....

Food donations requested for Loaves & Fishes BACKPACK program

Thank you to the families that helped fill our 25 monthly bags of food in November that went to students at the DelSesto Middle School in Providence.

Our next collection deadline is only just over a week away! Sunday, December 11.

One in 8 children in Rhode Island experience food insecurity (www.feedingamerica.org). 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.

BCCUCC supplements these donations to fill the bags. We collect items in the box in the narthex as you go up the stairs to church. The items requested are: peanut butter, bread, and jelly; oatmeal, canned tuna, rice and beans, pasta and sauce, fruit cups, 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. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084DA4AB2CAAFB6-bccucc7>. Please be sure to indicate the number of items you are signing up to donate.

Packing of the bags will take place Wednesday December 14 at 4pm 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.



From the Mission and Justice Team

Truth, Healing and Accountability for indigenous Boarding Schools

In honor of National Native American Heritage Day, which was observed on Nov. 25th this year, the UCC is asking Congress to pass S. 2907/H.R. 5444 and create a Truth and Healing Commission to not only confess past sins but move our nation toward a restored future and a right relationship with tribal nations.

[Learn more and send an email to your officials.](#)



Attention UCC women!

UCC New England Women's Celebration XI

Registration is open for the UCC New England Women's Celebration XI in Manchester, NH from **March 17-19, 2023**. *Register before January 1st to save \$25!*

*Please note, the registration fee does not include meals or accommodations.

Plan to be a part of this weekend filled with reconnecting with friends, making new ones, and forming connections with other women of faith.

Learn more and register for Celebration XI on their website www.uccwc.org. Questions? Contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or (401) 245-4724.



Join the Marketplace: Are you a crafter, maker, creator, entrepreneur, vendor, exhibitor, etc. or know someone who is? Join the UCC New England Women's Celebration XI Marketplace!

Learn more and download the Marketplace application at www.uccwc.org

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 will meet once a month this fall at the earlier time of **10 - 11 am** in the church library. They next meet on **Mon, Dec 12**. 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, December 20** at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Fleishman Is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner. [Book review](#). 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 next meet on **Tuesday, December 6** 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.
For security reasons, the zoom information is not included here, but was included in the eBridge sent 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 ourselves.



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. They next meet on **Thursday, December 15 at Noon** when they'll get together in the library for lunch. 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. December Youth Group gatherings are **Mondays, December 5, 12 & 19**. 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 with assistance from Racquel and titled *Where do the flags go?* 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.

[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

Community News



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, Dec 14.** 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.



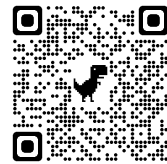
Online donations to the church through our website

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



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Join Our Email List

THE END !