



**December 15, 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.

### **Sun, Dec 18 Advent 4**

*UCC Christmas Fund offering*

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

### **Mon, Dec 19**

6 - 7 pm Youth Quiet Day, Church

### **Tues, Dec 20**

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

10:30 am Book Group, Library

### **Wed, Dec 21**

7 pm Advent by Candlelight, Sanctuary

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

### **Thurs, Dec 22**

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

### **Sat, Dec 24 Christmas Eve**

4 - 5 pm Christmas Story Stroll, Outdoors along the Riverwalk

8 pm Service of Lessons and Carols (in-person and online), Sanctuary

### **Sun, Dec 25 Christmas Day**

10 am Worship Service (in-person and online)

**Mon Dec 26**  
Office Closed

**Tues, Dec 27 - Fri, Dec, 30**  
Office open 9:30 - 12:30 only

**Sun, Jan 1, 2023 New Years' Day**  
10 am Worship Service with Communion

**Mon. Jan 2**  
Office closed

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

## Sunday, December 18

### Advent Candle Lighters needed this Sunday

A couple of volunteers are needed to read the short liturgy and light the Advent candles at the 10 am service **this Sunday, December 18**. To volunteer contact Rev. Dale Azevedo at [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 x 103. Thank you.



### UCC Christmas Fund

The UCC Christmas Fund offering will be taken **this 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 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' in the drop down menu; or directly at <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>. Thank you.

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

### Costumes for the Christmas Story Stroll

**This Sunday, December 18**, folks who have signed up (or will be signing up!) to be in the Christmas Story Stroll can sort out their costumes after worship in the foyer outside of Fellowship Hall with Joanne Ela.

If you can't make it this Sunday, last minute costumes will be available at 3 pm on the afternoon of the stroll (Sat, Dec 24). You are also welcome to create your own costume.

Please contact Andrea ([andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 107) if you have any questions.



### Shine a Light on Antisemitism

Temple Habonim invites the Barrington interfaith community

to **Stand in Solidarity against Hate**  
on **Sunday, December 18 at 6 pm**  
at **Temple Habonim**,  
165 New Meadow Road, Barrington RI.



All are invited to gather on the front lawn of the Temple to receive a candle. In honor of the first night of Chanukah, there will be singing, prayers, brief remarks, and then each will light a candle, reminding us that only light can lead us out of the darkness.

Rev. Racquel Ray will be attending and invites others from our church to join her. (Dale will be out of town so can't be there). [Flier](#)

### Show your support for the Jewish Community

The Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island has produced a [Shine the Light Coloring Page](#). They invite all Rhode Islanders to show the world that you stand with the Jewish community during this time of heightened antisemitism. It's simple—just color the menorah and place it in your window during Hanukkah (**December 18 - 26**). And be sure to spread the light even further by sharing a photo on social media with the hashtag #ShineALightRI.



## Preparing for Christmas

### Christmas Story Stroll - a few more volunteers needed

THANK YOU to everyone who has already volunteered to help with this year's Christmas Story Stroll. Volunteers are asked to please come at 3 pm on Christmas Eve to help set-up, get costumes, and get settled before we open at 4 pm.



A few more 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](#). *Note: The signup looks a little different than it did because the old 'theme' stopped working, but it's all the same information.*

Additional volunteers are still needed behind the scenes with 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](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 104, or Andrea [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x107.

Reminder: All volunteers are asked to come at 3 pm so we're ready to open at 4 pm.

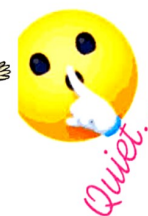
### Youth Quiet Day

Anyone who has visited church during Youth Group may not believe they read that correctly! But, it is possible to have a Quiet Day with young people!

All **5th – 8th and 9th – 12th grade youth** are invited to join Rev. Racquel in the church during the Youth

Group time on **Monday, December 19** from **6 - 7 pm**. We will spend a quiet hour in the sanctuary with goodie bags for the kids, quiet activities, and some readings about the Christmas Story as we head into the final week of Advent.

At least 2 additional adults will be needed. Please contact Racquel a.s.a.p. at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 x104 if you can help.



## 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*.



The last of these contemplative candle lit services will be in the sanctuary at **7pm** on **Wednesday, December 21**. All are welcome.

## Christmas & New Year Services



We invite you to celebrate Christ's birth with us

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24**

**4 - 5 pm Christmas Story Stroll**, *along the 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.



**Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25**



We will celebrate Christmas Morning church on **Sunday, December 25** at **10 am**. This will be a simple service and a bit shorter than usual. Rev. Racquel will be leading us and we know that some families may be coming in pajamas! Slippers are also welcome!



## New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1

We have special instructions for anyone hoping to join us for worship on **Sunday, January 1**. That Sunday will be a New Year's Day service led by Rev. Dale in which we will be honoring the past year as well as looking forward with hope to the year ahead.

Everyone in attendance is invited to **bring a unique item to church** with them. The items we bring are intended to reflect some significant moment that you experienced in 2022 (good, bad, or otherwise) or some hope or prayer you have for 2023. We will be using these items to build an altar of remembrance and hope in worship. Your item can be a simple mundane item in your house or a cherished family heirloom. All that matters is that it represents something significant to you. You **WILL** be bringing these items home immediately following worship, so no fears of losing something precious!

Come and join us and help lift up our prayers as we look back and ahead together.



## 'Tis the season of giving

### Giving Tree

The Mission and Justice Team is again supporting the Women's Resource Center and domestic violence survivors and their families in Bristol County during the holidays. The WRC staff will use your donations to buy gift cards for families in need. Donations should be given to the church office as cash, check, or online through Tithe.ly on the church website at <https://bccucc.org/donation/> - using the drop-down menu to have your donation go to 'Women's Resource Center.' The collection is running **through Dec 31**. Questions? Contact Nancy Arena at [nancy.arena@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com) (401-246-0212). Thank you for your donation!



### Mitten Tree

The Mission and Justice Team's Mitten Tree is set up in the sanctuary to receive donations of warm hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens etc. - both purchased and handmade - for children, youth, and adults of all sizes. The congregation is asked to place their donated items on or under the tree before or after the worship service and the collection is running **through the end of December**. 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](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com) to arrange for pick-up. Thank you for your donation!



### 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.

## 'Reaching out....to one another'

### Prayers for Sue and Steve Terhune

It is with great sadness that we learned about the fire that destroyed Sue and Steve's home Tuesday afternoon. We are relieved that everyone is safe and well including the family's cats and dog. The best way we can support them both right now is through our love and prayers. As their needs unfold, we will be sure to keep everyone in the church abreast of how we may be able to support them through their resettling and eventual rebuilding. May God's comfort and peace be with them.

### News about Lynne Lehman

Church member Lynne Lehman's family recently posted on Facebook the following update:

*"Mom is well as you can see here but she's been moved to a nursing home, likely permanently, after some falls starting in February and a quick decline in her mental wellness. We wanted to let you know she's well and happy and being looked after by the great staff at Brookdale Sakonnet Bay in Tiverton RI. But she misses all of her friends dearly. She doesn't do texts or calls very well but a card or letter would light up her day."*

Lynne's new address at Brookdale Sakonnet Bay is 1215 Main Rd #135, Tiverton RI 02878.



## Miscellaneous

### Youth Group Cookie Sale Success!

THANK YOU to the BCCUCC Community for making the Youth Group's Cookie Sale such a successful event! Our young people raised \$480 which will be divided evenly between Samaritans RI to support their Teen Talk Thursdays program, and for a future youth fellowship event yet undecided. It is the support of the congregation raising healthy young people that provides a 'home base' for them. Thank You all for the love you showed to our youth. And thanks to all of the parents, bakers, and most especially our Youth Group Members whose idea came to successful fruition through THEIR hard work and planning.



### Chancel Fund

Thank You to everyone who made a donation to the Chancel Fund this Christmas. The list of donors and dedications will be included in the bulletin for the 8 pm Christmas Eve service.

The fund has already paid for the Christmas plants on the

windowsills and the boxwood wreaths on the front doors of the church. We look forward to seeing the sanctuary fully decorated for Christmas Eve through Epiphany.

Your donations have also paid for Christmas plants to be delivered by the deacons to our homebound, ill and recently bereaved. Thank you.



## 2023 Budget information and Discussion

Thank you to all of the households who have submitted an **Estimate of Giving Card for 2023**. If you haven't yet filled one out and are planning to do so, we look forward to receiving it as soon as possible. (see \*\* below for instructions)

A letter was emailed to the congregation on December 6th that contained information about our church's current financial situation, as well as a preliminary budget for 2023.

We look forward to discussing all the issues with the congregation in further detail at a **budget discussion** that will take place **following worship on Sunday, January 8th**. In the meantime, 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](mailto:tcoby@fullchannel.net), or 401-578-4809.



*\*\*You can mail in your EOG card or place it in the offering plate. You may also email Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard ([pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org)) with your Estimate of Giving for 2023, and she will confirm receipt of your email and the amount. Thank you in advance for your continued support.*

## Deadline for 2022 Reimbursable Expenses

The end of our fiscal year is December 31. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out a voucher (which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team, or they can email Pat Stoddard with approval – [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org)) and send them to the church office, with receipts attached, **by Tuesday, December 20**. Vouchers are available from a folder on Pat's desk in the church office, or she can email you one ([pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org)). Expenses turned in after the deadline will be charged to next year's budget.

## Church Office holiday hours

The church office will be CLOSED on Fri, Dec 23 and Mon, Dec 26, 2022 and also on Mon, Jan 2, 2023.

The office will be OPEN from Tues through Fri, Dec 27 - 30, from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm only.



## eBridge holiday schedule



Due to the holidays, there will not be an eBridge newsletter on December 29. The next eBridge will be published on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

## Giving reminder for tax purposes

Please note that if you wish any contribution to be recorded as being received by the church in 2022, it must be in the hands of the office by December 31st, or postmarked by that date.

## Shop thru AmazonSmile and make money for our church!

As you do your holiday shopping don't forget that when you shop online at Amazon, if you log in thru AmazonSmile, every eligible purchase you make will raise 0.5% of the purchase price for our church. To learn more visit <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose 'Barrington Congregational Church' as your charitable organization. Or [click on this link](#) to go there directly. Each quarter the church receives a donation from Amazon and all you have to do is start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Thank you.



**You shop. Amazon gives.**

## 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](mailto:betsybrenner3@gmail.com) or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at [aubreyfolk@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.  
*No coffee chat on Dec 29th.*



### 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, January 3** 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](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com).  
*For security reasons zoom login information is not included here but was in the email sent to the congregation.*



### Prayer Service - on hold until Jan 4

*These services are currently on hold and will resume on **Wednesday**,*



**January 4, 2023.** 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. They next meet on **Thursdays, January 5 & 19**. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto: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.

They next meet on **Monday, December 19** from 6 - 7 pm for a **Youth Quiet Day** (see earlier article). Regular 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](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 x104.

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



## Worth repeating

### 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](http://www.uccwc.org). Questions? Contact Helen Schall at [helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.uccwc.org)

### The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Racquel and titled *God is Here - Even When...* If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#).



## Conference Happenings

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*

## 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](https://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](mailto:office@bccucc.org).



## Do you need a Name Tag?

If you would like a nametag please contact the church office at [office@bccucc.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 103 *Senior Minister*

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

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

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

Andrea [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto: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 !