



**December 16, 2021**

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

***Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.***

**Sat, Dec 18**

6 - 8 pm Senior Youth Group Movie Night, Library

**Sun, Dec 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*UCC Christmas Fund offering*

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

Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or on our website [at this link](#)

**Mon, Dec 20**

11 am Lay Visitation Meeting, Library

6 - 7 pm Junior Youth Group, Fellowship Hall

**Tues, Dec 21**

11 am Staff meeting

**Wed, Dec 22**

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Vestry

**Fri, Dec 24 Christmas Eve**

*Office Closed*

**4 - 5 pm** Christmas Story Stroll, Riverwalk

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

Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or on our website [at this link](#)

**Sun, Dec 26**

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online)

Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or on our website [at this link](#)

**Mon, Dec 27**

*Office Closed*

**Tues, Dec 28 - Thurs, Dec 30**

*Office Open 9:30 am - 12:30 pm*

**Fri, Dec 31 New Year's Eve**  
Office Closed

**Sun, Jan 2, 2022**

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

**Mon, Jan 3**

6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall

**Tues, Jan 4**

11 am Staff meeting  
6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others Group meet via Zoom

**Wed, Jan 5**

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Vestry

**Sun, Jan 9**

8:30 am FFaYM meeting, Library  
10 am Worship Service (in-person & online), Church School  
Watch at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://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](mailto:office@bccucc.org)

## Christmas Eve Services



**We invite you to celebrate Christ's birth with us**

**Friday, December 24th, 2021**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**4 - 5 pm Christmas Story Stroll - *along the Riverwalk behind the church buildings.***

This year's Christmas pageant will look a little different and is an outdoor live nativity we're calling a 'Christmas Story Stroll'. Guests are invited to walk 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 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 with Choir - *in person in the church and also livestreamed***

This traditional service will be held in the church and will also be livestreamed (see below). It will feature music from the choir and soloists as well as congregational singing of carols.

Please note that the church now has an air filtration system, and everyone is required to wear a mask, with the exception of children under age 2, those with a medical reason not to, and those leading worship.

For those not yet ready or unable to join us in person, this service will be livestreamed for watching either live or later at our regular links of [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>.



There are no worship services on Christmas Day.



## Volunteer opportunities

### Last chance to be in the 'Christmas Story Stroll'

The Stroll is coming along but a few more volunteers are needed to fill in the gaps at a couple of the stations - either depicting a character in the nativity story, or being a reader. 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. **Please sign up a.s.a.p.** at the following SignUpGenius link [sign up online](#). Questions? Contact Racquel ([racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 104) or Andrea ([andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 107).



### Stroll costumes.... and more!

We have plenty of costumes for animals, angels, shepherds and magi and they are available to borrow by the participants. The costumes are hanging outside of Fellowship Hall for pick up after church **this Sunday, December 19th** OR participants are welcome to create their own.

There will not be a 'dress rehearsal' so participants are asked to arrive by **3:15 pm on Friday, December 24th** to set up.

Andrea and Racquel are setting up lighting throughout the week of December 20th and all are welcome to help.

Questions? Contact Racquel ([racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 104) or Andrea ([andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 107).



### Additional ushers needed for Christmas Eve service

With the change in the service time and the current shortage of active ushers, we're in need of some additional ushers for the **8 pm Christmas Eve service**. If you can help, please contact Christine in the church office as soon as possible at (401) 246-0111 or [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org). Thank You.



### Candle Lighters and Readers needed

The **8 pm Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols**, being held in the sanctuary, is still in need of several volunteers to

- read the short liturgy and light the Advent Candles (an individual, couple or family is invited to do this)
- read one of the scripture lessons.



For more information or to volunteer contact Pastor Racquel asap at (401) 246-0111 x

## Worship Helpers needed in January

Volunteers are needed to assist Pastor Racquel with Sunday Morning Services on **January 16th, 23rd and 30th**. Helpers may choose to read the provided prayers or write their own. Pastor Racquel and the office staff will accompany you through the process and make it an easy yet meaningful experience. To volunteer for a Sunday, contact Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (246-0111 ext 104)



## Youth Groups

### Senior Youth Group 'Movie Night'

Senior Youth Group will meet **Saturday, December 18th** 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](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org)



### Junior Youth Group needs adult help!

Junior Youth Group (JYG) which is for grades 6 – 8, will meet on **Mondays, Dec 20, Jan 3, 10, 24, & 31** with Pastor Racquel from 6 – 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. **An adult helper is needed to support this program.** (Parents often have younger siblings at home during youth group so can't stay to assist). We encourage a parent or another helpful person from the congregation to assist Pastor Racquel. For more information or to volunteer, contact Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 ext 104. All middle school youth are welcome to be part of JYG.



## Miscellaneous

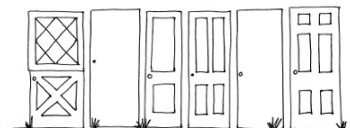
### Stewardship Update - please consider making a pledge for 2022

The 2022 Stewardship Campaign continues, and thanks to our generous faith community 92 Giving Cards have been returned so far. We are hopeful that more Giving Cards will be received soon as we navigate holding this Campaign during the continuing pandemic. We understand that financial challenges may prevent some households from submitting a Giving Card.

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 community in this way. Preparation of the 2022 budget is well underway and financial support from the congregation is a significant budget item.

You can make a financial commitment by returning a completed Giving Card, or emailing Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard - [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org) – or calling the Church Office (246-0111 ext 102) and leaving a message (you will receive a return call to verify your commitment). Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### OPEN THE DOORS



**TO GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY**

### Advent Daily Prayer for Reflection

We're in week 3 of Advent, which is the season in the church year when we prepare for the birth of Christ. If you've been following the 'Advent Daily Prayers for Reflection' based on readings for each week of Advent from the Revised Common Lectionary, here are the links for the remainder of the season:

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

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



## Staff End of Year / Christmas Gift

A message from Dale and Racquel...

*"During the first 3 weeks of December 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, Marina at our organ, and John 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.

## 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.



## 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.

For those not yet ready or unable to join us in person, the services are livestreamed so they can be watched online - either live or later - at [www.facebook.com/bccucc](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc) or <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>. We invite you to join us for worship - in person or online.



## Our current COVID safety protocols in the sanctuary

The cushions are now back in all of the pews in the church, but we ask that you continue to social distance where possible by sitting every other pew. As attendance increases, the remaining pews will be used. With the colder weather and no longer being able to have the windows open, there are now air purifiers with HEPA filters running in all four corners of the church. Mask wearing is still required with the exception of those under age 2, those with a medical reason not to, and those leading worship. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone as safe as possible.



# Opportunities to help others

## UCC Christmas Fund offering

The UCC Christmas Fund offering will be taken **Sunday, December 19th**. 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/christmas-fund-home>.

Donations may be made during worship on Dec 19th 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/christmas-fund-home>. Thank you.



## The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is in the narthex ready to receive donations of warm hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens etc. - both purchased and handmade - for children, youth, and adults of all sizes. Items on the mitten tree will be donated to organizations serving individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. **Donations may be made through Sunday, December 26th.** If anyone wishes to make a donation, but is not currently attending in-person worship, please contact Mission and Justice team member, 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!



## Help support Barrington family who lost their home in a fire

Prayers were lifted up in worship on December 12th for the Valtierra family of Barrington who recently lost their home in a fire, and the family was already dealing with a couple of devastating health crises. Neighbors in the Alfred Drown area and the wider Barrington community are all rallying to help the family and a GoFundMe page has been set up at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-a-deserving-family-rebuild-their-lives>. They're also looking for a house to rent while they wait for their home to be rebuilt. It needs to be handicap accessible or could be made so to accommodate the father, Robert's physical limitations. If anyone has any leads, please email [valtierrahomefinders@gmail.com](mailto:valtierrahomefinders@gmail.com). For more information about the family and their situation, see the [December 13 ProJo article](#).



## From the church office

### Church Office holiday hours

The church office will be CLOSED on Christmas Eve, Mon, Dec 27 and Fri, Dec 31.

The office will be OPEN from Tues through Thurs, Dec 28 - 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 30th. The next eBridge is currently scheduled for publication on Thursday, January 13th, 2022.

## Deadline for 2021 Reimbursable Expenses

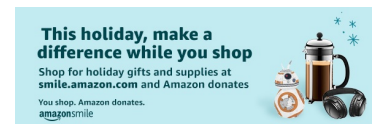
The end of our fiscal year is Dec 31st. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out a voucher (which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team or they can email Pat Stoddard with approval – [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org)) and send them to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

## Giving reminder for tax purposes

Please note that if you wish any contribution to be recorded as being received by the church in 2021, 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.



## Ongoing groups

### Knitting for Others Group

The Knitting Group will meet again on **Tuesday, January 4th** from the earlier time of 6:30 pm until 9 pm over Zoom. You may join the call at any time and stay for as long as you'd 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).

*The zoom info needed isn't included here for security reasons, but was in the version emailed to the congregation.*



### Bereavement Group has a new meeting time

The Bereavement group will meet on **Monday, January 10th** at their new earlier meeting time of 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. 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 Brenner at her new email address [betsybrenner3@gmail.com](mailto:betsybrenner3@gmail.com) or 245-8031.

## Book Group for January

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, January 18th** at 9:30 am at a location tbd. They will discuss *The Other Side of the Bridge* by Mary Lawson. For more information about the group - and to find out the location - contact Helen Schall at [helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenschall@hotmail.com) or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate.



## Women of Faith Reading Group

The group will meet again on **Thursday, January 20th** 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. For more information including the current material being read contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net).



# 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.

# 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

**Racquel** [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 104

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

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

**Andrea** [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 107

(Dale [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 103. *Note: Dale will not be checking any phone messages or emails until he returns after his sabbatical ends on 2/22/22.*)

**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 !