



December 17, 2020

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!

Calendar

Church Office is CLOSED until further notice.

There will be no in-person worship services at church thru Jan 2021

Thurs, Dec 17

7 - 8 pm Advent Bible Study with Linda, via Zoom

Sun, Dec 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Fund offering

10 am Live-streamed Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at

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

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Confirmation Class

5 - 5:30 pm Meditation Service via Zoom

Mon, Dec 21

7 - 7:30 pm Meditative Coloring for Adults, via Zoom

Tues, Dec 22

9:30 am Book Group via Zoom

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom

2 pm Worship Tech Team meeting via Zoom

Thurs, Dec 24 Christmas Eve

5 pm Livestreamed Pageant Palooza

7 pm Livestreamed Christmas Eve Worship Service

Both services can be watched at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)

Sun, Dec 27 First Sunday after Christmas

10 am Live-streamed Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at

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

Sun, Jan 3 Second Sunday after Christmas

10 am Live-streamed Worship Service with communion (No in-person worship). Watch

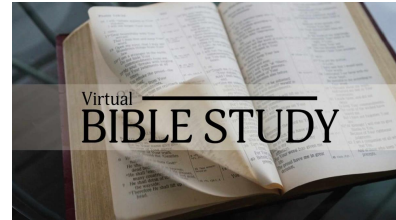
at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)

For the complete church calendar visit <http://bccucc.view-events.com>

Happening very soon.....

Advent Bible Study - last one is tonight

The last of the three-week Advent Bible studies is **Thursday, December 17th** from 7 – 8 pm on Zoom. In addition to delving into Bible passages we've also been exploring archaeological findings related to the passages. Linda has been joined by frequent participant, Dick McWhirter who has been sharing some fascinating archaeological developments with us. If you're interested in the Bible, in history, in archaeology, or in all three, we hope you will join us for this last session, even if you haven't attended any of the previous two sessions, you're very welcome. So you can prepare for our conversation the passages we will be discussing at this last session are Jesus' Birth Narratives – Matt. 1:18 to 2:12; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20. If you have any questions, email Linda at linda@bccucc.org. *For security reasons the zoom information isn't included in this version but was in the email sent to the congregation.*



'Christmas for Haiti' - online auction extended

The **SNEUCC Haiti Partnership** Steering Committee's is currently holding an online auction called "Christmas for Haiti" **that runs until 6 pm on Friday, December 18th**. All of the proceeds will go directly to support the mission's educational, health and nutrition programs in Haiti. These include the 'One Egg' program that BCCUCC has supported for many years. You can also just make a donation to the 'One Egg' program at the auction site.

[Click here](#) for more information about the SNEUCC Haiti Partnership, where the proceeds will be used, and the link to the online auction. Shirley Hardison will be adding more items to the auction site so folks can keep watching for further postings. [Auction site](#)

Scholarships for Haiti students: You can make an online donation toward scholarships for Haiti students at the auction site (see above). However, we also received a letter from the RI Association about the Haiti Scholarship program with information on where to send a check, if that is what you'd prefer. [Read the letter](#)



Our special worship series continues..

This year's special Advent and Christmas worship series began on the first Sunday in Advent, (Nov 29th) and continues through the Sunday after Christmas (Dec 27th). This special holiday worship series, "*I Believe Even When...*" has been guiding us through the weeks of preparation for Christmas and will then help us celebrate Christmas. The six services all string together to help "Fill the Night with Music and Light!". Our choir, Worship Tech Team, Chancel Team, and staff have been working hard to make this season's distanced celebration even more meaningful than usual with all of the music, videos, readings, prayers, and lights to carry us through. Please join us virtually **each Sunday @ 10:00 am thru Dec 27th**, and also on **Christmas Eve @ 7:00 pm** for these special services.



UCC Christmas Fund offering

Each year, UCC churches collect a special offering for the *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund* which provides financial assistance to active and retired pastors. Ninety-five cents of every dollar given to the fund goes directly to those in need, providing financial help with the cost of medical insurance, emergency needs, as well as supplementing small pensions. This year the need for assistance has been particularly high. We know that there are many worthy causes seeking assistance this year and we thank you for considering The Christmas Fund as one of those. Donation checks should be made payable to 'BCCUCC' with 'Christmas Fund' in the memo line, and mailed to Barrington Congregational Church, 461 County Road, Barrington RI 02806. You may also contribute securely online at www.christmasfund.org. Thank you.

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

Meditation Service

This month's Sunday Meditation service will be held virtually via Zoom on **Sunday, December 20th** from **5 - 5:30 pm**. The service includes five hymns and scripture verses, a meditation, and a brief period of silence. The theme for the Winter Solstice is: *Neither Dual Nor Dual: Light and Dark*. Register on [Signup Genius](#) or by contacting Trinki Brueckner (401 447 4742 or trinki49@gmail.com) so she can email you both the zoom information needed and a pdf of the service so that you can participate from the warmth of your home. All are welcome to participate - there's no limit!



Andrea the Elf!

Andrea has been busy “elfing” about the East Bay, delivering goodie bags to all of our Church School kiddos to enjoy while they tune in to watch the Christmas Pageant Palooza. The Palooza will start airing at 5pm on Christmas eve and can be seen at www.facebook.com/bccucc or [at this link](#). She hopes these little tokens help to remind our Church School kiddos that their church family is thinking about them and that we miss them. All of us are looking forward to a time when we can be together again.

If your child didn't receive a goodie bag, please contact Andrea at (andrea@bccucc.org) so that she can register your children.



Christmas Eve at BCCUCC

Christmas Eve Services - livestreamed only

Like all things 2020, Christmas Eve services will be different at BCCUCC this year. There will be no in-person worship but we will be streaming two Christmas Eve events on our usual livestream channels on [Facebook](#) and the [website](#) (click on the links to access them).

We hope you will join us virtually this Christmas Eve. The one blessing of worship being virtual is that if you cannot attend the livestream you can always catch up at a time that is convenient for you and your family at the links above.

- **Pageant Palooza at 5 pm**

Our first event is our annual Christmas Pageant, this year called “**Pageant Palooza**”, will stream at **5 pm** on December 24. This is a brief and fun service celebrating our children and children's ministry.



- **Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm**

Our **full Christmas Eve service will stream later that evening at 7 pm**. This later service will be part of our amazing "*I Believe...Even When*" Advent and Christmas Series. This series is all about celebrating our faith even when things aren't easy or as we'd like them to be, and is filled with prayers and music.



Miscellaneous

Clergy away

Dale will be taking vacation after Christmas and will be unavailable from Christmas Day through Saturday, January 2nd. During his absence, please reach out if needed to our Associate Minister, the Rev. Linda Hartley at linda@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104.

Staff End of Year/Christmas Gift

A message from Dale and Linda...

"We are blessed to have wonderful people working here who give more hours to our church than expected or are fully 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 five different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Coordinator, Marina at our organ, and John our custodian. Each staff person will receive this gift according to the number of hours they work. We are sorry to be a few weeks behind this year, but encourage you to be generous if you are able. Thank you ahead of time for your gift." Checks should be made payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'Staff Gift'. They can be sent to the office. Thank you.



BLM Vigil on hold

Due to the increase in COVID cases there will be no December 27th Black Lives Matter Silent Vigil. They should resume once it's safe to do so.

Altar Flower donors needed in January

There are openings on **Sundays, January 17th and 31st** for donors to pay for one vase of altar flowers. Cost is \$30 per vase. Altar flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event. If interested, please contact Bethia Rosner at bethiarosner@gmail.com or (401) 383-5538. Thank you.



Thank you

Donations to the wider community

The Mission and Justice Team would like to thank all of you who have donated to our mission requests these last two months. The Thanksgiving drive in November enabled us to

give TAP-IN \$700.00 towards the purchase of food/gift cards for their clients.

Over the last two weekends your generous donations of toiletries, coats, mittens, scarfs, hats and other warm items were delivered at our drop-offs in the church parking lot and filled the backs of our cars. They will soon be delivered to the Women's Resource Center and Amos House. Thank you again for helping BCCUCC Build Connections with our wider community.



Chancel Fund donations

Thanks to those who donated to the Chancel Fund this Christmas. While we may not be in the sanctuary this year to see it decorated in person, we will see it during the virtual Christmas Eve service to be broadcast at 7 pm (or watched later at your convenience). In addition, your donations helped pay for all of the Christmas plants that our Deacons delivered (in a COVID safe way) to our homebound, sick and recently bereaved. Thank you. [Chancel Fund donations](#)



Some financial notes

Deadline for 2020 Reimbursable Expenses

The end of our fiscal period is December 31st. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, either complete a voucher or send an email to Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org) with receipts attached, **by Wednesday, December 23rd**. You can also drop off your receipts in the church mailbox with a note. Pat will contact the appropriate team chair for approval to make the reimbursement. Vouchers are available [at this link](#). 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 2020, it must be in the hands of the office **by Thursday, December 31st**, or postmarked by that date.

We are hopeful that those of you that made a financial commitment for 2020 will be able to honor that commitment before the end of the year. We also understand that some may not be able to do so due to the pandemic.

An update from your Stewardship Team

Since Consecration Sunday on November 8th, the church has received 106 Giving Cards from members and friends with their financial commitment for 2021. Your church is very grateful for this response, given the far-reaching effects of the pandemic. If you intend to return a Giving Card for 2021, we hope to hear from you as soon as possible. Our Finance Team and Church Council are in the process of finalizing the 2021 budget and many of their decisions are based on these financial commitments. You may also email Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org) with your financial commitment for 2021, and she will confirm receipt of your email and the amount. You may also mail in your card, or leave it in the church mailbox located on the wall at the top of the steps near the office entrance.

Building



Connections

Contribution Envelopes for 2021

Contribution envelopes for those of you that had them for 2020 have been ordered. When they are received, they will be mailed to you. Please contact



Sundays at BCCUCC

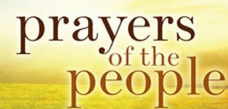
Our **online worship service** is at **10 am** every Sunday morning and you can watch it live either on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc (click on the 'posts' or 'videos' link to find it) or on our website www.bccucc.org/live-stream-page/. If you miss it live, a recording can be watched later at the same links. We include on the screen all of the information needed for participating in worship each week. Please note that there will be no in-person worship through January 2021 - all of our worship services will be online only.



worship
ONLINE

Prayer requests

Deadline for submitting prayers to be included in worship is **8 am Sunday morning**. You can either leave a message on the church's answering machine (401) 246-0111, or email Dale dale@bccucc.org or Linda linda@bccucc.org. Please be sure that the person you are lifting up is comfortable with them reading your prayer to the whole community, and consider using first names only.



prayers
of the
people

Deacons

Amy Barkat (chair), Nancy Arena, Steve Fodor, Lory McCoy, Pat Stoddard, Carol Strakosch, Jeff Stumpff, and Jane Tonn. In a pastoral emergency if you cannot reach either of our ministers, please reach out to one of our deacons.

Altar Flower dedications

On Sunday, December 20th:

One arrangement is given by Beth and Will Buckley in loving memory of grandparents, Blanche and Max Daves, and Dad, Bill Buckley. The other arrangement is given by John, Cheryl, and Catherine Muth in memory of loved ones.



On Sunday, December 27th:

One arrangement is given by Joe and Joanne Judge in celebration of Christmas, their parents, family, friends, and wishing peace and joy to all. The other arrangement is given by the Rosenholms in loving memory of their family no longer with us.

Birthdays being celebrated

The week of December 20th: Christian Odjakjian, Ozzie Rosenholm, Ainsley Drury, Lynne Githens, Evan Anderson, Steve Fodor, Carol Louttit, Andrew Todd, and Victor Fernandez.

The week of December 27th: Nancy Voigt, Carolyn Materne, Alex Anderson, Gabe Anderson, Kristen Westmoreland, Tracy Hoyt, John Marshall Lemos, and Pat Cordeiro.



If your name doesn't appear and you'd like it to, please contact the church office so we can add your birthdate to our data base. Thank you.

Ongoing ways to participate



BCCUCC COVID Commemoration Tile Project

Our congregation is working to come together through ART! Create a personalized tile to hang at church as a way to remember this time apart during the pandemic.

Someone from the project group will be reaching out to you to arrange your participation. We are using contactless drop-off/pick-up methods arranged personally with each family. The materials are also sanitized between use.

It is our sincere hope to have EVERYONE in the congregation participate. As we expect this project to take several months with only a few tiles safely out at a time, if you do not receive a phone call soon, no worries. If you are really excited about participating and have not received a phone call yet, feel free to reach out sooner to one of us listed below.

Any questions, please contact Joanne Ela (gsbse@me.com), Heather Williamson (williamsonheather300@gmail.com), Miriam Duvel (msduvel@cox.net), or Elizabeth Azevedo (eazevedo17@gmail.com).

Pictured are some of the tiles that have been created so far.



Weekly Meditative Coloring for Adults

We all are stressed out from the long pandemic. Come, relax together, and color an uplifting message each week. Elizabeth Azevedo offers an online (Zoom) weekly meditative adult coloring small group on **Monday evenings** at 7 pm via Zoom for about 30 minutes. Each week, participants can pick up the coloring page ahead of time at the church in a designated spot outside (or be mailed/emailed one if unable to pick one up). They meet via Zoom to color and discuss the “page” for the week. Please email Elizabeth if interested – eazevedo17@gmail.com. The next session is on **Monday, December 21st**. They won't meet on Dec 28th but will resume on **Monday, January 4th**.



Book Group

The Book Group will next meet virtually via Zoom on **Tuesday, January** at **9:30 am**. to discuss *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo. For more information about the group, contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate. *For security reasons the zoom information isn't included in this version but was in the email sent to the congregation.*



Knitting for Others Group

The group meets virtually each month and will next meet on **Tuesday, January 5th** at 7 pm via 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. *For security reasons the zoom information isn't included in this version but was in the email sent to the*



From the Mission and Justice Team

Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty

The new legislative session at the Rhode Island State House is different this year amidst pandemic protocols, but one tradition remains the same: the coalition's 13th Annual 'Fighting Poverty with Faith' Vigil will take place on **January 5th at 3pm on Zoom**.

This year the vigil will be held virtually. The event's agenda will include keynote speakers, elected officials taking the virtual podium, music and prayer, and the attendance and encouragement of you, faith and poverty advocates, alike.

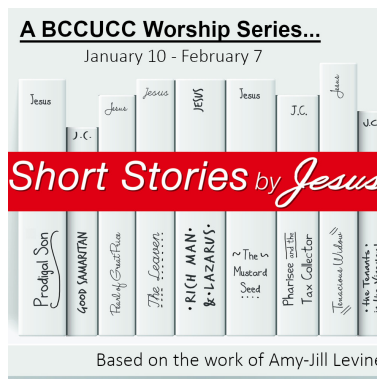
Let's start the year together and declare that in 2021 we will fight for justice and equality and encourage our elected official to do the same. Together, through policy, we can lift up those in need and walk hand in hand on the road to end poverty. [Register for the Event](#)



Coming in January

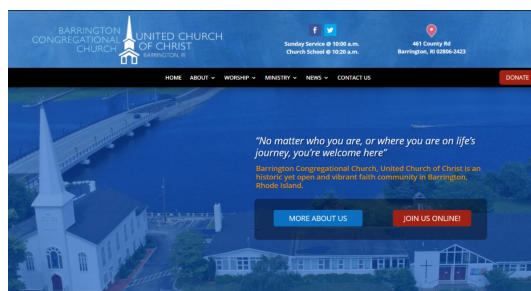
Start your year off right!

Dale and Linda are introducing a **new sermon series** beginning on **January 10th** entitled *Short Stories of Jesus*. They will be exploring five of Jesus' parables found throughout the gospels. Many of these stories you will have heard before. What makes this series interesting is that the sermons will be based on the work of Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of Jewish studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She tries to approach the New Testament as one of Jesus' original listeners might have. Come and hear these timeless stories in a new way!



Announcing a New BCCUCC Website!

Early this January we will be unveiling a new church website. This web design has been in the works since August and is just about ready to go live. First and foremost this new website is designed to be welcoming to visitors and easy for them to navigate. It will have an entirely new layout and appearance. It will also contain nearly all the same information as our old website so all of your important questions can be answered there. It will probably be **around January 10th** that the website goes live but we wanted you to have a head's up so you have something to look forward to and won't be caught off-guard by the changes.



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

Reminders

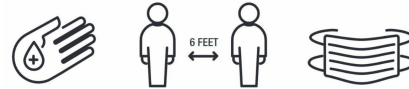
Make money for the church while shopping on Amazon

If you do your holiday shopping on Amazon, please log in through smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0304531. AmazonSmile will then donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice - Barrington Congregational Church - at no cost to you.



Keep yourself and others safe

The [BCCUCC Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings](#) is a one page document that all are asked to read and observe when they attend any BCCUCC outdoor gathering. Thank you.



Building Safety

A reminder that the church buildings remain closed until further notice. If you need to drop something off, or have asked to pick something up, the items can be deposited or retrieved from the white wooden "Church Mailbox" that's located at the top of the stairs by the office entrance, next to the boiler room door. We ask that people not enter the building. Thank you.

Stay connected with each other - and call the ministers if needed

During this time of separation, we are all encouraged to keep in touch with each other. If there's someone in the church you'd like to reach out to - maybe someone living alone - but you don't have their contact information, please call the church office and leave a message (401 246-0111 x 101) or email office@bccucc.org. Christine will then get their contact information to you.



If you're in the hospital, a nursing home or rehab, or you're simply staying home, but would like a visit with a minister, please don't hesitate to call them and they'll be happy to visit with you over the phone. Their numbers are Dale (401) 246-0111 x 103; Linda (401) 246-0111 x 104. Leave a message and they'll get back to you.

Ways to watch our live-streams

We are doing our live-streams using Zoom and 'Facebook Live' and there are two places to watch it online:

1. On the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc
2. On the church's webpage www.bccucc.org at the '[BCCUCC](#)'

[live-stream](#) link from the home page, where the feed will be embedded.



For Facebook live, simply go to www.facebook.com/bccucc to watch. You don't need a Facebook account to see it. If you do have an account, search for the church's Facebook Page which is 'Barrington Congregational Church UCC'. If you 'Like' our page you should then get our news feeds, and also be able to comment on our posts and the live feeds. Once on the church's Facebook page, you will need to click on 'posts' or 'videos' to find the live feed, or watch the recording later.

If you're not able to watch live, you can watch a recording later, on the [live-stream page](#) of our website.

The office is closed but you can still reach us

Until further notice, the church office will remain closed. However you can still be in touch with the ministers and staff. You can either send an email or leave a message on the answering machine at the person's extension. Both emails and voice mail messages are checked regularly. Our contact information is:



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

Linda linda@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

Clergy Days off each week: Linda is off on Mondays and Dale is off on Fridays.

Connect with us



Visit our website

Join Our Email List

THE END !