



**December 2, 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.***

**Sun, Dec 5 Second Sunday of Advent**

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

**Mon, Dec 6**

*BCCUCC Green Team meeting postponed to January - date TBD*

**Tues, Dec 7**

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

**Wed, Dec 8**

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Vestry

**Sun, Dec 12 Third Sunday of Advent**

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

**Mon, Dec 13**

*Deadline for Chancel Fund donations*  
11 am Bereavement Group, Fellowship Hall  
5 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners meet via Zoom  
6 - 7 pm Junior Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen  
7 pm Buildings and Grounds meeting

**Tues, Dec 14**

9:30 am Book Group meets, Library  
11 am Staff Meeting  
*11:45 am Church office closes early*  
7 pm Church Council Meeting

**Wed, Dec 15**

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

7 pm Mission and Justice Team meeting  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Vestry

### Thurs, Dec 16

Noon Women of Faith Reading Group's Christmas Gathering, Library

### Sat, Dec 18

6 - 8 pm Senior Youth Group Movie Night, Library

### Sun, Dec 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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)

## Worship

### Worship Helpers needed

Volunteers are needed to assist Pastor Racquel with Sunday Morning Services. 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, contact Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (246-0111 ext 104)



### Advent Candle Lighters needed

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



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

Our Lessons and Carols service will be in the Church at **8 pm** on **Christmas Eve**. This moving service will be accompanied by our talented choir and perhaps a soloist. Volunteers are needed for each of the readings. Please email Pastor Racquel [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or call (401) 246-0111 ext 104 to volunteer.



### Christmas Eve Worship Services

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

**4 - 5 pm** Christmas Story Stroll, Riverwalk (see details later)

**8 pm** Service of Lessons and Carols with Choir, Sanctuary

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



### 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.

## New COVID Safety Measures effective Dec 5th.

At their November meeting, Church Council discussed and agreed to the following changes to our protocols at Church that will be in place by Sunday, December 5th.

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

## Of note

### Stewardship Update

The 2022 Stewardship Campaign continues, and thanks to our generous faith community 83 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 Church Council will meet December 14th to review the preliminary budget.

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.



### Staff away

Andrea Bullard - our Faith Formation Director - will be out of the office from Sunday afternoon, December 5th through Monday, December 13th. During her absence any questions about church school or the Christmas Story Stroll should be directed to Pastor Racquel Ray at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 ext 104.

### Meeting postponed

The meeting of the BCCUCC Green Team, originally scheduled for Monday, December 6th, has been postponed until January on a date tbd.



# Advent and Christmas at BCCUCC

## Advent Daily Prayer for Reflection

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

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

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

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

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



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

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## Sign up to be in our Live Pageant - 'The Christmas Story Stroll'

The Christmas Story Stroll plans and volunteers are progressing well. Many volunteers have already signed up. Thank you to the Search Committee for sponsoring one station! There are 4 other stations to fill. Please support this effort by signing up (details below) or by contacting Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 ext 104.



The Faith Formation and Youth Ministry (FFaYM) team has designed an outdoor live nativity for this year's pageant from **4 - 5 pm on Christmas Eve**. Called '**The Christmas Story Stroll**' it will feature 5 stations depicting the different parts of the Christmas Story along the Riverwalk behind the education building and church. Beginning at the large commuter parking lot, the community is welcome to grab a warm cider, and listen to Christmas carols as they stroll the Christmas Story from Gabriel and Mary to the Magi visiting the baby Jesus in the Manger. Thank you to those who have already signed up. There are more slots that still need to be filled so please sign up if you can. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and you can also sign up online using Sign-up genius (see below).



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

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

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

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 ext 104

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## 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 be included in the church bulletins on December 5th and 12th. 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 13th**. Thank you for your donation.

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## The Mitten Tree

The Mission and Justice Team have once again set up The Mitten Tree 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 throughout the month of December.** 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!



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## 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.

## Youth Groups

### Junior Youth Group needs YOU!

Please help Pastor Racquel keep this strong

group going. We have an energetic and enthusiastic group of middle school kids in Junior Youth Group (JYG) and we need a few volunteers to help chaperone for the hour that they meet on Monday nights. Prayerfully consider helping once per month. Contact Pastor Racquel at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 ext 104 for more information or to volunteer.



Our next JYG meetings are **Mondays, December 13th & 20th** from 6 – 7 pm as we don't meet when public schools are out. All youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

### 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)



## Ongoing groups

### Knitting for Others Group

The Knitting Group will meet again on **Tuesday, December 7th** from the earlier time of 6:30 pm - 9 pm over Zoom (you can join the call at any time). 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](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com).



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

### Bereavement Group

The Bereavement group will meet on **Monday, December 13th** from 11 a.m. - Noon in Fellowship Hall. The group is open to anyone (not just church members) who has lost a loved one at any time. New members are welcome. For more information, contact the facilitator, Betsy Brenner at [jsbeeb@aol.com](mailto:jsbeeb@aol.com) or 245-8031.



### Book Group for December

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, December 14th** at 9:30 am in the church library. They will be discussing *Deacon King Kong* by Jamie McBride. For more information about the group 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, December 16th at Noon** in the church library for their Christmas Gathering. For more information please contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net).



Thank you

## Check out our newly painted creche!

Thank you to the painters - **Catanzaro and Sons** - who went above and beyond when they recently painted the carriage sheds. They saw that our Creche (stored in the sheds) was in need of painting, so they generously painted it at no extra charge. Thanks also to Paul Dennis and Jay Buckley who between them put out the creche, set up the lighting, and filled it with the nativity figures. The creche with the nativity scene will be on the front lawn of the church throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.



## Red Scarf Project

Thank you to everyone who made or purchased a red scarf for the HIV/AIDS Awareness 'Red Scarf Project'. Helen Schall took them to be displayed on the Providence Pedestrian Bridge on World AIDS Day, December 1st, and took the photo (right) of the decorated bridge.



## Worth repeating

### Racquel to provide coverage during Dale's sabbatical

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dale Azevedo is on a three-month sabbatical and returns Feb 22, 2022. Our acting Associate Minister, Racquel Ray will be leading worship and ministering to us during Dale's time away. She is now working full-time at the church (taking Friday as her day off) and will remain full-time until a new settled associate is called. She has also arranged for two other clergy for further support if necessary during Dale's absence. Racquel can be reached at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (246-0111 ext 104).

### Additional ushers still needed!

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



### Walking and/or Biking buddy wanted

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



## 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. Thanks.

### This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.



## Conference Happenings

### Keep up to date with our Conference - SNEUCC

The Southern New England Conference, UCC (SNEUCC), publishes several newsletters - one of which comes out weekly and is titled '**5 Things to Know and Share**'. Read the latest edition [at this link](#) and sign up to subscribe and get it sent to your inbox.

[Click on this link](#) to see the archive of all of the different SNEUCC newsletters - and subscribe to any that are of interest to you.



**Southern New England Conference**

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## COVID Safety Reminders

### Masks are required in both the education and church buildings

Masks are required for all participants in worship - with the following exclusions:

- anyone with a medical reason why they can't wear a mask
- children under the age of 2
- while leading worship



### Education building is open with some important requirements

The education building re-opened on Sept 1st for church and public use with the following **requirements**:

- All visitors attending meetings or events shall **wear appropriate masks at all times** (Note: Visitors includes both church people and outside groups)
- **Hand sanitizer** shall be made readily available for all attendees (this is the responsibility of the organization/individual holding the event)
- An accurate **copy of attendees and contact information** shall be kept (this is the responsibility of the organization/individual holding the event)





- Weather permitting, **doors and windows are to be propped open**
- Any room or venue utilized by a group shall **remain vacant for at least 20 hours** before being utilized by a separate group.

## Contact us

**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 !