



December 3, 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 3

7 - 8 pm Advent Bible Study, via Zoom

Sat, Dec 5

10 am - Noon: Drop off for Mitten and Giving Tree donations, Parking lot

Sun, Dec 6 Second Sunday of Advent

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](#)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom

Mon, Dec 7

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

Tues, Dec 8

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom

2 pm Worship Tech Team meeting via Zoom

7 pm Church Council meeting via Zoom

Wed, Dec 9

11 am Lay Visitation meeting via Zoom

Thurs, Dec 10

7 - 8 pm Advent Bible Study via Zoom

Sat, Dec 12

1 - 3 pm Drop off for Mitten and Giving Tree donations, Parking lot

Sun, Dec 13 Third Sunday of Advent

10 am Live-streamed Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)

Mon, Dec 14

3 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners meeting via Zoom
7 - 7:30 pm Meditative Coloring for Adults, via Zoom

Tues, Dec 15

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom
2 pm Worship Technology Team meet via Zoom

Wed, Dec 16

Noon Deadline for the next eBridge
7 pm Mission and Justice Team meeting via Zoom

Thurs, Dec 17

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

Sun, Dec 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

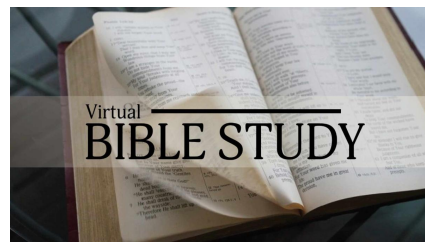
Christmas Fund offering
10 am Live-streamed Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm Confirmation Class
5 - 5:30 pm Meditative Prayer Service on Terrace

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

Happening very soon....or already in progress!

Advent Bible Study

Join us for a three-week Bible study on Thursday evenings this Advent beginning **TODAY, December 3rd**. In addition to delving into Bible passages we also will be exploring archaeological findings related to the passages. Linda will be joined by frequent participant, Dick McWhirter who will be 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. As always you can join for all three sessions or any of the sessions you can. We will be meeting on Zoom from **7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** on **December 3rd, 10th and 17th**. *The zoom information is not included here for security reasons but was sent in the email to the congregation.* If you have any questions, email Linda at linda@bccucc.org, or call (401) 246-0111, ext. 104.



The passages we will be discussing at each session are noted below so you can prepare for our conversations:

- 12/3 (King David) – 2 Samuel 6:1-19, 7:1-17
- 12/10 (Isaiah and The Servant Song) – Isaiah 40:1-11, 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-11, 52:13 to 53:12
- 12/17 (Jesus' Birth Narratives) – Matt. 1:18 to 2:12; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20

A COVID-safe way to donate to the Mitten Tree and Giving Tree.....and some additional items have been requested

This year our Mitten Tree and Giving Tree will be looking a little different. Due to Covid-19 the Mission and Justice Team will be holding **drive through drop-offs** at the church on two Saturdays in December. On both days members of M&J will be on hand to collect your donations of **mittens, gloves, hats and scarves** for various organizations; and for the Women's Resource Center **new winter coats**, and **toiletries** (body cloths/loofahs, hair brushes, hair ties, Q-tips, baby powder, baby oil, nail clippers, full-



size shampoos, conditioners, deodorant, feminine products, body washes, hand soap, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes & toothpaste, dental floss, moisturizers, hair products, skin products) and **laundry detergent**.

On **Saturday, December 5th** we will be collecting between **10 am and Noon**, and on **Saturday, December 12th** between **1 and 3 pm**. The drop off point will be in the parking lot in front of the Education building. We know that your donations will be greatly appreciated by those who receive them. Thank you for your generosity.

Questions? Contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com

'Christmas for Haiti' - an online auction in progress

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 11th**. 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.

[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](#)



Fontamara School at recess

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](#)

Advent and Christmas at BCCUCC

Our special Advent and Christmas worship series has begun....

it started on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov 29th) and Dale and Linda, along with many lay leaders in the church, invite you to participate in our special holiday worship series. "*I Believe Even When...*" will guide us through the weeks of preparation for and celebration of Christmas. A total of six services will string together to help "Fill the Night with Music and Light!". Our choir, Worship Tech Team, Chancel Team, and staff have been hard at work to make this season's distanced celebration even more meaningful than usual. There is music, videos, readings, prayers, and lights to carry us through. Please join us virtually **each Sunday @ 10:00 am** and again on **Christmas Eve @ 7:00 pm** for these special services.



We need a little more help with Advent - especially with litany prayers

As a part of our "*I Believe Even When...*" Advent and Christmas worship series, we need your participation. There are three main ways you can help.

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

1. Send us pictures of your nativity set (ie creche). These pictures can be sent to Dale or Linda and will be used each week during Advent during

our prelude and postlude music. Thanks to all who have already submitted photos. If you'd like yours featured, it's not too late to send it in.

2. Send us your litany prayers. These prayers follow a simple fill-in-the-blank formula that goes like this "I believe that _____ [fill in the blank with a lament, a sorrow, a confession] AND I believe that _____ [fill in the blank with a prophetic word of change or hope]. Check out [Dale's Nov 12th blog](#) for examples!

3. Offer to read. We have lots of places for people of all ages to help lead worship during this series. Reach out to Dale or Linda and we will help you record something special for the services.

Dale and Linda can be reached at dale@bccucc.org or linda@bccucc.org If you're able to help with any of these, **please get your responses in ASAP!** Thanks!

News about Christmas Eve Services



Like all things 2020, Christmas Eve services will be different at BCCUCC this year. We will be streaming two Christmas Eve events on our usual livestream channels on Facebook and the website. Our first event is our annual Christmas Pageant, this year called "**Pageant Palooza**", **will stream at 5PM** on December 24. This is a brief and fun service celebrating our children and children's ministry. Our **full Christmas Eve service will stream later that evening at 7PM**. This later service will be part of our amazing "I Believe...Even When" Advent 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. 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.

Chancel Fund donations sought

Even though we are not able to gather in the sanctuary to worship this Advent and Christmas, we will still be decorating the altar area in preparation for and celebration of Christ's birth. It's going to be a little different this year and you'll get the opportunity to see it each week by watching the virtual worship services beginning Nov 29th. The Deacons will also be delivering holiday plants to our homebound, sick and recently bereaved. We are therefore inviting the congregation to make a donation to the Chancel Fund this holiday season to cover the costs. For more information or to make a donation, [download the Chancel Fund Donation Form](#). **Deadline for donations is Friday, December 11th.** Thank you.



Thank you

Thanks to everyone who donated pajamas

Our church participated in **Foster Forward's 9th Annual Pajama Drive** which provides new pajamas for children & teens who live with foster families or in group homes. The need is great this year and Pat Stoddard put out a request for pajama donations. On Sat, Nov 28th she set up a drop off spot in the church's parking lot for congregation members to drop pajamas off to the back of

her car. She was thrilled to receive **59 sets of pajamas** and wants to thank the congregation for their generosity. On Dec 1st she delivered them all to Foster Forward's office in East Providence. Thank you to all who donated pajamas and also a big thank you to Pat Stoddard for organizing the collection at BCCUCC.



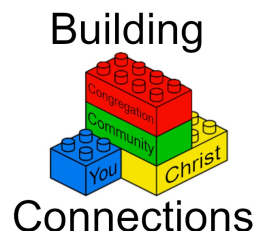
Stewardship Campaign Continues... & thanks to all who've responded

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign continues, and thanks to our generous faith community 91 Giving Cards have been returned so far. We are hopeful that more Giving Cards will be received as we navigate holding this Campaign during a pandemic. We also recognize 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 is great. Your contributions will allow us to continue to connect with our community in this way. Preparation of the 2021 budget is well underway and Church Council will meet next week via Zoom 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 – or calling the Church Office (401) 246-0111 ext 102 and leaving her a message (you will receive a return call to verify your commitment). Thank you in advance for your continued support.

***Giving Cards can be mailed in, or can be dropped off in the white Church Mailbox located on the wall at the top of the steps near the office entrance.*



A summary of Church Chats with Pastor Dale

Some common themes arose

8 weeks ago Dale shared an idea about connection: making sure that he was serving and supporting the needs of our church family during these unprecedented times. We launched Church Chats with Pastor Dale, where we could get together in small groups to listen, support and celebrate one another. We held 4 Church Chats with a total of 25 people across 4 meetings and we asked 5 questions. And we have to say – these sessions not only strengthened our faith in our church community but brought an opportunity for connection and closeness to each other.



Each session was unique but there were definitely some common themes of what we're all feeling right now.

1. **Things are tough.** Whether it's working from home, balancing the needs of our personal sanity with our children, deep loneliness, resurfaced anxieties, old illnesses, new loss, frustration - things are definitely hard. And we're all feeling the weight of these worries. Being able to support each other in these small group chats allowed for everyone to sympathize and empathize. And that helped many feel less alone in their struggles.
2. **Everyone wants connection.** Even though there was some chatter about Zoom fatigue, a lot of folks agreed that it's better than nothing! In fact, that connection came from some unlikely sources, with many folks sharing that this pandemic has brought them closer to people they wouldn't have normally spoken to.
3. **We all need a safe space.** These are tough times and our mental health is taking a hit. Having safe and comfortable place to share is imperative -and we're

so pleased to hear that the chats provided that for folks. These sessions were only an hour or so but relationships are strengthened by moments of trust and sharing and we were happy to witness such sincere bonding.

4. **New connections are an unexpected joy.** The attendees were comprised by fate, we didn't actively move folks from group to group like planning a perfect dinner party. And so, each group was unique. But when people had a chance to talk and listen with members they never otherwise would have hung out with – that was a delightful surprise for so many. And we're so hopeful that connection will carry over when we see each other in person!
5. **We've redefined fun.** Whether it was binge watching shows on Netflix, Reading (both fluffy and serious!) enjoying nature, playing games, or finding out that we actually *do* in fact like our immediate family. Some of us got new pets, some of us got to baking, some learned new languages but we all have found ways to have fun even during these tough times.

So, **thank you** to all who joined. And now we ask the question: what's next? We think there's a great benefit for having more Church Chats. We'll have new questions to inspire us and hopefully more people to sign up!

Stay Tuned for new details coming in January 2021.

*If you are interested in participating in a chat at some future date (tbd) there is a place on the [SignUpGenius](#) link to sign up indicating your interest. ****How to use SignUpGenius***

Of note.....

Linda's time at BCCUCC extended

At a recent Church Council meeting a decision was made to put the search for an Associate Minister on a pandemic pause. At the same time Church Council agreed that it would like to extend an offer to Rev. Linda Hartley to continue her ministry with us for another six months. The terms of Linda's original call were that she would be leaving us come January 2021. After discussion, Linda has agreed to stay on through June 2021. We feel very fortunate and blessed that she has made this decision. I know that we all appreciate the gifts the Linda brings to us.



Where's Andrea?

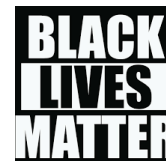
She writes..."Last week I finished delivering make-your-own Advent wreath kits to all of our families with children registered for Church School. If you did not receive one please contact me (andrea@bccucc.org) and I'll register your children and bring you a kit. In the next few weeks I will be "elfing" about the East Bay and 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](#). I hope these little tokens help to remind our C.S. 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."



Black Lives Matter Silent Vigils are on HOLD

Due to the increase in COVID cases, the November 29th vigil was cancelled, and the December 27th vigil is also cancelled. It is hoped that they can resume in the New Year - pandemic permitting.

The Vigils are sponsored by BCCUCC; Barrington Interfaith Partners; Barrington Presbyterian Church; St. John's Episcopal Church; Sts. Matthew and Mark Episcopal Church; and Temple Habonim.



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.

worship
ONLINE

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.

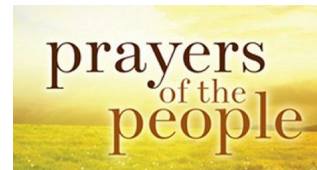
Communion Sunday is December 6th

On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate communion during the virtual service. We invite everyone who wishes to participate to have elements prepared ahead of time for you to join in this celebration. If you have bread and juice (or even wine) feel free to use it. However, we invite you to participate with whatever elements you have on hand. Christ is present and will not be denied if you do not have the "proper" elements. God understands and joins us however invited, if invited with an open and loving heart.



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.



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 6th: One arrangement is given by the Stoddard family in loving memory of Jonathan Converse.

The other arrangement is given in loving memory of Kate Fodor by Mom, Dad, Kim and Alison.

On Sunday, December 13th: Both arrangements are given by the Colby family in loving memory of Richard G. Haas and Richard B. Colby.



Birthdays being celebrated

The week of December 6th: Addy Forzano, Bethia Rosner, Liz Rosenholm, Drew Todd, Robert Slye, Bill Ward, and Dave Gregory.

The week of December 13th: Ava DiMatteo, Amelia De La Torre, Wyatt Porter, Sydney Zarlengo, Kim Colby, John Faulhaber, and David MacMillan.



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



A memorial for this time apart.

Help fill the wall with messages and ART.
Create your personalized tile to hang at church on the wall along the walkway by the children's playground.
How has COVID affected you? How has time away from church affected you? What would you want someone 20 years from now to see/learn about this time?

COMING soon... someone from the project group will be reaching out to you to arrange your participation. We are planning on using contactless drop-off/pick-up methods arranged personally with each family. It is our sincere hope to have EVERYONE in the congregation participate. As we expect this project to take several months, 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. We will share pictures of the tiles as the project moves forward.



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

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 is offering 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 sessions are on **Mondays, December 7th and 14th**.



Book Group

The Book Group will next meet virtually via Zoom on **Tuesday, December 15th** at **9:30 am**. They will discuss *Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott. For more information about the group, contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate. *The zoom information is not included here for security reasons but was sent in the email 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. *The zoom information is not included here for security reasons but was sent in the email to the congregation.*



From the Mission and Justice Team

UCC Webinar - 'The EPA in 2021: Prioritizing Moral Accountability'

The last four years have brought about the dismantlement of potentially 104 federal environmental rules. What needs to happen to repair the EPA in 2021 and bring about moral accountability? The UCC and Interfaith Power and Light are offering a free webinar on this topic on **Wednesday, December 9th at 1 pm.**

Learn more and sign-up at bit.ly/EPA2021. Even if you can't make the scheduled time, by signing up you'll be sent a recording of the webinar.



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.



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THE END !