



February 1, 2024

The bi-weekly newsletter of
Barrington Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

Calendar

*Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.
Closed on Federal and State Holidays & where otherwise noted*

Thurs, Feb 1

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library

Sun, Feb 4

8:45 am Church School Team meeting, Library
10 am Worship Service with Communion, Church School
After Worship: Valentine making at Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Mon, Feb 5

6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Room 9

Tues, Feb 6

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others Group, Library and via Zoom

Wed, Feb 7

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Feb 8

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

Sun, Feb 11 Laity Sunday

9 am - 12:15 pm OWL Class, Library
10 am Worship Service, Church School

Mon, Feb 12

10 - 11 am Bereavement Group, Library
5 - 6:30 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners (9BIP) meeting, Library and via Zoom
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Room 9

Tues, Feb 13

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Feb 14 Ash Wednesday

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*
4 pm Pack bags for LFRI Backpack Program, Fellowship Hall
7 pm Ash Wednesday service, Sanctuary
7:30 pm (or after service ends) Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Feb 15

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library

Sun, Feb 18
10 am All Ages Worship Service

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

If you can't be with us in person, we invite you to worship with us online

Our **Sunday morning services** are **livestreamed** for those unable to attend in person. They can be viewed on [our Facebook page](#) or on [our YouTube channel](#) - either live or watched later.

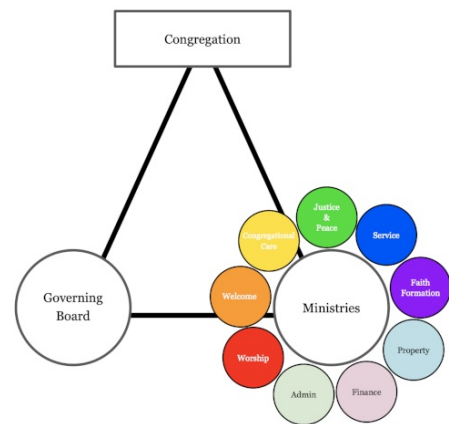
Only once the service is over, can a recording of the service be found on [our website](#). The **Sunday worship bulletin** is also posted to [our website](#).



Historic vote at our Congregational Meeting

We did it! BCCUCC adopted our new church structure!

This was quite a momentous decision we made. Now we need to begin to live into it! As you should know, there is still a lot of work to be done. First, if you haven't already, go read [Dale's blog](#) from last week that discusses how participants can get involved in teams. It should be helpful! Many of our teams are already in place and are up and running. Others will be making a shift from their current organization to a new one. And still others are either just a name on a piece of paper or are still a kernel in your mind. Teams are at the heart of our new model.



Next, we will be organizing our [Governing Board and Ministry Coordinators](#). Our Governing Board Chair, Laura Ward, will be meeting with members of the GMTF next week to discuss the transition. She will then be calling our very first Governing Board meeting. They have a lot of work to do to get up and running and it will take quite a while till they are a well-oiled machine. But have not fear, it will happen!

Dale has also reached out to our Ministry Coordinators. They are organizing their first meeting to learn how they can support our existing and new teams.

The final piece of the puzzle is the writing and adoption of our church "policies". The new [2024 by-laws](#) are complete and approved, but many of the organizational details and procedures will be outlined in policies. We anticipate having policies for the Governing Board, congregation, ministries, Deacons, finances, property, and staff. Many of these are in draft form. Some are near complete. Some will need a complete rewrite. Our goal is to have these completed and approved by the end of 2024 (many will be much sooner).

As you can see, we still have a fair amount of work cut out for us and we look forward to everyone's participation in the process as we move ahead.

February happenings

Valentine making for the homebound & college students

This Sunday, February 4 at coffee hour the congregation has the opportunity to make valentines that will be sent to our homebound, recently bereaved or sick church members, and also to our college students. The deacons are supplying all of the materials, they just need you to stop by the table and use your creative talent to make the valentines! All ages are welcome to come make valentines so that we can "reach out.....to one another" within our church community by sending them the valentines that you make.



College Addresses needed: If you have a college student and would like them to receive a valentine from the church (see above) please send their name and school address to Jane Tonn at jtonn2@cox.net, or to the church office at office@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 **by Friday, February 2**. Thank you.

Girl Scout Cookie Sales - one day only at coffee hour!

It's Girl Scout cookie season! We have several girl scouts in the congregation representing several troops. To be most inclusive to our kids, we would like to offer ONE cookie sale day **during coffee hour on Sunday, February 11**. Girl Scouts from BCCUCC may set up a cookie table during coffee hour to offer cookie sales to church guests. Please email Rev. Racquel racquel@bccucc.org to sign up.



Ash Wednesday Service

Dale and Racquel will be hosting an Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 14** at **7 pm** in the sanctuary. It will be a quiet reflective service and will include an imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. Ash Wednesday is the official start of the season of Lent which is the traditional time to prepare oneself for the celebration of Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. All are welcome.



Lenten Lunches

Please join Pastors Dale and Racquel for Lenten Lunches. We'll be serving simple soup and bread on **Thursdays at Noon** on **February 22, 29 and March 7, 14, 21, and 28**. As we break bread together, we'll offer table discussion questions for small group conversations. Come, savor the simple and spiritual nourishment of soup, bread, and community.

So we have an idea of how many to prepare for, please RSVP to Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x104 **by Sunday, February 18** if you plan to attend. Thanks. All are welcome.



'Royalties for Negro Spirituals: Where are we now?'

Want to learn more about the Royalties for Negro Spirituals Initiative? It's been two years since the initiative was started by the UCC Musicians Association, and they invite you to join them in a webinar titled ***Royalties for Spirituals: Where are we now?*** on **Saturday, February 17** from **12 - 1 pm**. Find out more and register for this free event at <https://uccma.wildapricot.org/event-5580795>

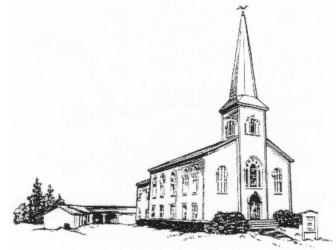
This zoom webinar is limited to the first 90 registrants. Once the limit is reached, you will be placed on a waitlist. If you can't attend, look for the video of the webinar on the UCCMA's [YouTube channel](#).



Miscellaneous

A message from our Property Coordinator

During the transition to our new organizational structure, our Property Coordinator, Paul Dennis, asks that church members who would like to bring buildings or grounds issues up for consideration should contact him at wrbtwks@aol.com or cell phone if necessary 401-243-3493.



The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Dale and titled "A Team for Every Member and Every Member on a Team". If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#).



Do you need a name tag?

If you would like a nametag please contact the church office at office@bccucc.org or call (401) 246-0111 and let us know what name you'd like on the nametag and your preference for a clip, pin or string holder. Nametags are stored on the rack in the vestry hallway, or you can keep it in your car or purse where you can easily find it on a Sunday morning.



In the event of bad weather....

We will always do our best to notify you of cancellations, especially if we ever need to cancel Sunday worship. Be sure to check your email, Facebook, and the TV and radio stations. You can also check the [RI Broadcasters Closings list](#). However, in the event that we lose power and/or internet connection we will be unable to post these notifications.



Your safety is important to us, so if the weather is bad but church is going ahead, please don't come out unless you're comfortable doing so - even if you're scheduled to assist in some way with the service. Your wellbeing is the #1 priority.

Ongoing groups and activities (listed alphabetically)

Bereavement Group

This support group is open to anyone (not just church members) who has lost a loved one at any time and new members are always welcome. The group meets once a month from **10 - 11 am** in the church library and next meet on **Monday, February 12**. For more information contact one of the facilitators, Betsy Brenner at betsybrenner3@gmail.com or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at aubreyfolk@aol.com or (401) 392-1909, or Rev. Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org (401) 246 0111 x 104.



Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, February 20** at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *North River* by Peter Hamill. [Book review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Choir rehearsals

If you enjoy singing, why not join the church choir - no audition needed! Rehearsals are on **Wednesday evenings** at **7:30 pm** in the Vestry. To learn more, speak with our music director Matthew Marion after church or at (401) 954-7107 or mmarion1811@gmail.com. Or speak with any choir member - they'd love to have you join them. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord!



Coffee chats with Racquel - and others!

On **Thursday mornings** Rev. Racquel and others meet at [Thrive Tribe Café](#), 60 Maple Ave, Barrington from **8:30 – 9:30 am** for coffee and conversation. All are welcome to join them any time they can make it. Note: they still meet even when Racquel is away.



Knitting for Others Group - in person and via Zoom

The Knitting for Others Group meets both in person and via zoom on the first Tuesday of each month, and next meets on **Tuesday, February 6** from **6:30 - 9 pm**. Feel free to stop into the library or join the call at any time and stay as long as you like. All knitters and crocheters are invited to participate and new faces are very welcome. For more information on the group, contact Nancy Arena at (401) 246-0212 or nancy.arena@outlook.com.



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

Loaves and Fishes Backpack Program

BCCUCC continues the collection of food bags to be given to the families of 25 students at DelSesto Middle School in Providence who are experiencing food insecurity. We continue to partner with *We Share Hope* (<https://wesharehope.org>) to provide food to those in need & also with *Books are Wings* who donate free books for the students. (<https://www.booksarewings.org>).



BCCUCC supplements the food donations to fill the bags. We collect the following items in the box in the narthex as you go up the stairs to church: **peanut butter, bread, jelly, oatmeal, canned tuna, rice and beans, pasta and sauce, fruit cups, granola bars and shelf stable pudding**. Thank you to those who supported December's collection.



Please use [February's SignUpGenius link](#) to sign up to donate specific items, being sure to indicate how many of an item you can donate. If you need help signing up please call the church office (401) 246-0111.

The **deadline** for February food donations is **Sunday, February 11** which is earlier than usual because of the February school vacation. The **packing of the bags** will take place on **Wednesday, February 14** at **4 pm** in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in helping put the bags together. Contact Jay Buckley pbuckley6@cox.net or 578-6533 if you can help, or with any questions.

Women of Faith Reading Group



The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. They meet for discussions on books, faith and life on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from **1:30 - 3 pm** in the church library.

Upcoming meetings are on **Thursdays, February 1 and 15**. For more information - including what they're currently reading - contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net

Youth Group

The Youth Group (for grades 5 - 8) gathers most weeks throughout the year on **Mondays** from **6 - 7 pm** in Fellowship Hall and Room 9. Youth group meetings consist of fun and fellowship, simple dinner (usually pizza) and a closing prayer service. When the weather permits, they'll meet on the terrace, labyrinth, and playground. *Note: There is no youth group when Barrington Public Schools have a day off.*

Their next meetings are on **Mondays, Feb 5, 12 & 26**. All youth grades 5 - 8 are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Rev. Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 104.

Don't forget that youth participating in any programs at church must be registered. [Registration form](#)



Community News

Providence Singers Concert
"Considering Matthew Shepard"
Saturday, March 9
7 pm

WaterFire Arts Center, Providence

Considering Matthew Shepard is a three-part fusion oratorio composed by Craig Hella Johnson and set to poetic text by a wide range of voices: Lesléa Newman, Michael Dennis Brown, Rumi, and 12th-century mystic Hildegard of Bingen. Also included are passages from Matthew's personal journal, interviews, newspaper reports, and writings from his parents, Judy and Dennis Shepard.



The work will be presented by the **Providence Singers**, a 100-voice concert choir that performs with the Rhode Island Philharmonic. Directed by Christine Noel, they will be joined by guest singers, soloists, a diverse instrumental ensemble, and video.

The **Rhode Island Gay Men's Chorus** will also perform, opening the concert with selections that include a world premiere of a work by their artistic director, composer Kim Kuda.

The vision for this concert reflects that of the [Matthew Shepard Foundation](#): *...to amplify the story of Matthew Shepard to inspire individuals, organizations, and communities to embrace the dignity and equality of all people. Through local, regional, and national outreach, we empower individuals to find their voice to create change and challenge communities to identify and address hate that lives without our schools, neighborhoods and homes."*

To this end, the Providence Singers have invited several local LGBTQ+ organizations to participate in a networking event before the concert. **Doors open at 6:30**; please plan to arrive early to chat with our guests and learn more about their important work in our community.

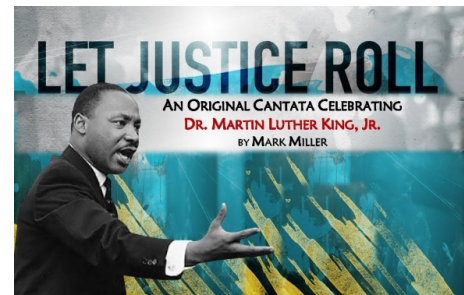
"Considering Matthew Shepard demonstrates music's capacity to encompass, transform,

and transcend tragedy. Powerfully cathartic, it leads us from horror and grief to a higher understanding of the human condition, enabling us to endure."
--Washington Post, 2016

Tickets and more information available at <https://www.providencesingers.org/considering-matthew-shepard>

"Let Justice Roll" Choral Concert
Sunday, March 3
3 pm
Newman Congregational Church, UCC

The combined choirs of Newman Congregational Church, UCC and First Baptist Church in America, will perform an original cantata by Mark Miller celebrating Dr, Martin Luther King, Jr.



Concert is at Newman Congregational Church, UCC, 100 Newman Ave., Rumford RI 02916. Suggested donation \$10 and all proceeds to benefit Newman Church's racial equity scholarship program. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets available at the Newman Church Office or by calling (401) 434-4752 x10. [More information](#)

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.

Some eBridge articles have been moved!

In an effort to reduce the length of this newsletter but not cut back on material that might be of interest to some folks - in particular anyone new to our church - some of the material that was repeated in each edition of the eBridge has been moved to a separate page. To learn more about any of the subjects listed below please [click on this link](#)



Sunday mornings at BCCUCC:

- Services livestreamed to Facebook and YouTube.
- Nursery Care.
- Learn more about Church School and our other programs for children and youth.

From the Church Office:

- Deadlines for Announcements and eBridge.
- Online donations to the church through our website.

Connect with Us

Rev. Dale Azevedo Senior Minister dale@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 103

Rev. Racquel Ray Associate Minister for Congregational Life racquel@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 104

Christine Wallis Office Administrator office@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 101 (or just stay on the line)

Pat Stoddard Financial Secretary pat@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 102

Andrea Bullard Faith Formation Director andrea@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 107

Matthew Marion Music Director mmarion1811@gmail.com Music Director

Church Office Hours: Open Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.

Closed on Federal and State holidays.

Building Security: The Education building remains 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.



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