



February 10, 2022

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, Feb 13

10 am Worship Service with Guest Speaker, Mr. Ray Rickman (in-person & online)
Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#) or on [our YouTube channel](#)

Mon, Feb 14

10:30 - 11:30 am Bereavement Group, Fellowship Hall
5 - 6 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners educational forum on Solitary Confinement, via Zoom
7 pm Buildings and Grounds meeting, Vestry

Tues, Feb 15

9:30 am Book Group meets via Zoom
11 am Staff meeting
7 pm Deacons meeting via Zoom

Wed, Feb 16

7 pm Mission and Justice Team meet via Zoom

Thurs, Feb 17

1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library

Sun, Feb 20

10 am All Ages Worship Service (in-person & online)
Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#) or on [our YouTube channel](#)

Mon, Feb 21 Presidents' Day

Office Closed

Tues, Feb 22

Dale returns from his sabbatical
11 am Staff meeting

Wed, Feb 23

Noon Deadline for eBridge
7 pm Membership Team meeting

Sun, Feb 27

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online)

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

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

Sunday, February 13th

Guest Speaker - Mr. Ray Rickman

We will welcome Mr. Ray Rickman as our guest speaker this **Sunday, February 13th**. Ray Rickman is co-founder and Executive Director of Stages of Freedom, an organization which raises awareness and advocacy for populations of color in our area and beyond. One of their programs is Swim Empowerment – a partnership with local YMCAs to provide scholarships and swimming lessons for children of color who statistically drown at five times the rate of white youth.

Our Mission and Justice team is bringing Mr. Rickman to speak on Sunday, and the team invites you to make a donation to support the Swim Empowerment program – either online through Tithe.ly on our church website at www.bccucc.org/donation, or by making a check payable to 'BCCUCC' with 'Swim Empowerment' in the memo line. We will be taking these donations throughout the month of February, which is Black History Month. Thank you.



Souper Bowl of Caring's 'Tackle Hunger' challenge - ends Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring unites communities to support local hunger relief charities across the nation and encourages neighbors to tackle hunger in their



local communities. Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has created over \$170 million worth of support that stays completely local.

On **Souper Sunday, February 13th** (Super Bowl Sunday) groups are invited to take the Tackle Hunger Challenge! Learn more at www.tacklehunger.org. What if everyone watching the Big Game gave just one dollar or one can of food to tackle hunger?

BCCUCC has taken on the challenge and we've been conducting a **food drive** to provide canned and shelf-stable food to our local food pantry, **TAP-IN**. You can join in the challenge and support TAP-IN by donating canned soup or making a monetary donation to help feed hungry neighbors right now. All donations benefit hunger relief efforts!

Bring cans of soup to BCCUCC **through February 13th** and add them to the pyramid of cans in the narthex! When donating cans, please check expiration dates as TAP-IN cannot accept items that are past their expiration date. Also pull-top cans are preferred when available, as recipients don't always have a can opener.

To make an online monetary donation go to [BCCUCC's donation page for the challenge](#). Thank you to everyone who has made a donation of soup or money.

FREE At-Home Rapid COVID Tests available

The church received a case of COVID test kits from the Town of Barrington to distribute. They are available for pick up on the way out of church **this Sunday, February 13th**. Each box contains two tests. Limit 1 box per person or 2 per household. Thank you.



Services livestreamed to Facebook, website and YouTube

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, quarantining, or unable to join us in person, the services are livestreamed so they can be watched online - either live or later - in three different places:

- the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc
- the Livestream page of the church website <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>
- and **our church's YouTube Channel**

Occasionally, Facebook doesn't allow us to stream to their platform, and on those occasions it won't be possible to watch the service on either Facebook or our website. However, you should still be able to find the service on YouTube at the link above.

No Church School or Youth Groups at this time

Unfortunately, the situation with the omicron virus caused us to put our church school and youth groups on hold for a while - and this has been extended through February, at which time the situation will be reassessed. Any questions should be directed to Pastor Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104

New in this eBridge

BIP Educational Forum on Solitary Confinement

Barrington Interfaith Partners (BIP) will hold an educational forum on Solitary Confinement on **Monday, February 14th**, from 5 - 6 pm, on Zoom. Anyone who is interested in attending can contact Trinkie Brueckner at trinki49@gmail.com or (401) 447-4742 and she will send you the Zoom link on Monday morning. All are welcome.

- 4:45 pm Zoom link will open.
- 5:00 Opening prayer and greetings
- 5:05 A Jewish Perspective on Solitary Confinement - Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman, Temple Habonim
- 5:10 Perspectives of Incarcerated Men and the Mother of One of Them - Cindy Thomsen, Sts. Matthew and Mark Episcopal Church
- 5:15 A Christian Perspective on Solitary Confinement - Rev. David Mehl - retired minister, United Church of Christ
- 5:20 The Perspective of a State Senator and Former Law Enforcement Officer - Sen. Cynthia Coyne, District 32
- 5:35 Questions, Answers, Discussion
- 5:55 Closing Thanks
- 6:00 - 6:15 BIP members (and others) are welcome to stay to discuss our next meeting

Loaves and Fishes RI news

We are happy to report Loaves and Fishes RI will begin again, although in another ministry form. The pandemic has impacted our ability to serve communities in person.

Beginning monthly in March, we will gratefully embark on a new way of serving others. Our ministry will begin a new iteration of service. Our focus will be on providing food to a select group of students at the DeSesto Middle School in Providence. We are partnering with We Share Hope (<https://wesharehope.org>) to receive groceries to provide 25 student families with food items. Additionally, Books are Wings (<https://www.booksarewings.org>) have generously offered to donate 2 books per student as a precious gift of literacy.

You may be wondering; how can I help support this ministry? The details are currently being finalized, once completed we will update the ways we can each serve this ministry.



Valentines made and sent!

Last Saturday morning, February 5th, 15 adults and children came together in Fellowship Hall to make Valentines. Many were made and over 30 of them were sent to our homebound as well as our college students. Thanks to all who participated and also to Andrea Bullard and Lory McCoy for organizing this event on behalf of FFaYM and the Deacons.



Racquel's Ecclesiastical Council

Save the date of **Sunday, March 13th** at 3 pm when an Ecclesiastical Council will be held for our acting Associate Minister, Racquel Ray. It will be held via zoom – more details later. This is the last step on the long road toward being eligible for ordination.

SNEUCC Super Saturday March 19, 2022 9 am - 3:30 pm

"A Future With Hope: Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative"

Due to the increase in Covid cases, Super Saturday is now Virtual.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Sarah Drummond, Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Sarah has written five books on the subject of ministerial leadership and dozens of articles on the same. She will speak on "Planning for a Better Babylon"



There are also morning, lunchtime, and afternoon workshops you can sign up for. [More information and to register](#) *Registration Deadline: March 13, 2022 - register early to get into the workshops of your choice as space is limited.*

A note from the Endowment Team

With the members of the congregation having just passed the annual Budget, this is a good time for a reminder of the meaningful impact of the BCCUCC endowment for our church.

Endowment Funds are Assets invested to provide income for the long-term support of the church. They are managed by outside organizations: United Church Funds, The Rhode Island Foundation and the Ocean State Incubator Fund managed by Citizens Bank. The Endowment Team's goal is to retain the purchasing power and preserve the sustainability of these funds while also providing support to the operations of the church.

The general fund is the largest with assets at December 31, 2021 of \$2.3 million. A

percentage (currently 4.5%) of the balance contributes to the annual budget each year: \$82,500 in 2021 and \$86,500 in 2022. This is nearly 25% of the church's annual pledges!

In addition to the general fund, we also have funds for designated purposes: The Swensen Music Fund, The Fodor Scholarship Fund and the McGlory Landscaping Fund. Distributions from these funds support their designated purposes.

Giving to endowment is a way to sustain the church's mission for many years to come. If this idea resonates with you consider a legacy gift to the endowment funds. Donations to the general fund, or any of the designated funds are always welcome and a designated fund of your choosing can be created with a gift of \$20,000 or more. These are gifts that truly keep on giving.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Christine in the church office at (401) 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org. She will contact a member of the Endowment Team.

Your Endowment Team,
Kate Colby, Chair, Dick McWhirter and Seth Forman

Worth repeating

Altar Flower donor needed

There is currently an opening on **Sunday, February 20th** for a donor to pay for one vase of the altar flowers. Cost is \$30 per vase. Altar flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event, and your dedication will be included in the worship bulletin and read during the service. If interested, please contact Jen Melker a.s.a.p. at jkmelker@gmail.com or (617) 877-1278. Thank you.



Dale's return

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dale Azevedo will return from his three month sabbatical on **Tuesday, February 22nd**. We look forward to welcoming Dale and Elizabeth back.

Urgent Appeal from the RI State Council of Churches and Lifespan Hospital

The pandemic is placing stress on the healthcare system in Rhode Island. Lifespan has contacted the Rhode Island State Council of Churches (RISCC) for help finding individuals to join the Volunteer Corps at Rhode Island, Miriam or Bradley Hospital. There are numerous non-medical tasks that can be done. After two years of doing the hard work of caring, healthcare workers urgently need our support.

Rev. Eugene T. Dyszlewski, President of RISCC, writes: "Rhode Island is our home. This is where we belong. This is about helping our families, neighbors and friends. What better way to thank the "heroes" who are tirelessly providing care, than to stand with them. If you are at all able, please join a Hospital Volunteer Team. The need is real."

For more information, please contact The Rhode Island State Council of Churches at risccl@councilofchurchesri.org or [click on this link](#)

Step Up

to Support Our Lifespan
Healthcare Workers

Healthcare workers at Rhode Island, The Miriam and Bradley hospitals have been caring for our community throughout the pandemic. After almost two long years, they could use a hand.

Volunteer opportunities are available at all three hospitals, in various non-clinical roles.

Must be fully vaccinated and boosted.

Must be able to commit four hours weekly, 100 hours annually.

For information on volunteering at individual hospitals, please contact:

Rhode Island Hospital: span@lifespan.org

The Miriam Hospital: miriam@lifespan.org

Bradley Hospital: lifespan@bradley.org



Coming in March

'Peaceful Pause and Prayer' to return

Dale will resume doing his bi-weekly 'Peaceful Pause and Prayer' online meditations on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 am **beginning Tuesday, March 1st**. Each meditation provides moments for reflection, music, scripture, and silence. They can be watched on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on the livestream page of our website at <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/> and will remain available for later viewing on both platforms if you can't watch live.



Ash Wednesday Service

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on **Wednesday, March 2nd** and there will be a service at 7 pm in the sanctuary.



Lenten Study

Stay tuned for information about a Lenten study series at BCCUCC. Details in the next eBridge.

Ongoing groups

Bereavement Group

The group will meet on **Mondays, February 14th and 28th** from 10:30 – 11:30 am 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 or 245-8031.



Book Group for January

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, February 15th** at 9:30 am and will again be meeting via Zoom. They will discuss *End of the Point* by Elizabeth Graver. 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 isn't included here for security reasons. It was in the email sent to the congregation.

Women of Faith Reading Group

The group will meet again on **Thursday, February 17th** 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. Their current book for discussion is *How to Love a Country* - poems by Richard Blanco. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net.



Knitting for Others Group

The Knitting Group will meet again on **Tuesday, March 1st** from 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.
The zoom information isn't included here for security reasons. It was in the email sent to the congregation.



Our response to the current COVID situation

Increased COVID safety protocols extended through February

Additional safety measures were put in place at BCCUCC in early January in response to the omicron variant and resulting high numbers of COVID cases in the community. These protocols have been extended through the end of February, after which time they will be reassessed.

The following protocols are currently in place:

- Continuing masking*, social distancing, and signing in for worship
- No singing of any kind in the sanctuary - by choir or congregation
- Masks will be worn by the worship leaders throughout the service
- Sitting in every other pew. The ushers will oversee this.
- No Church School
- No Youth Group

In addition please note the following changes:

- The children should remain in the pews with their families for Children's Time and not come up front
- No choir rehearsals

*If possible, we encourage the wearing of KN95 masks which have been proven to be more effective at stopping the omicron virus. Surgical masks may be worn but because they don't fit as well to the face, they're not quite as effective. Unfortunately, cloth masks are not good at filtering out the omicron virus so should be avoided.

Church office hours

Due to the current COVID situation, some of the church staff are working remotely whenever possible. As a result the church office may not always be open as scheduled. If you plan to stop by, please call first. Messages can be left on the answering machine and calls will be returned as we all have remote access to our phone messages as well as to our emails.

In case you missed it

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Racquel and titled 'The Sacredness of Water'. If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#)



From the church office

In the event of bad weather

We will always do our best to notify you of any cancellations, especially if we need to cancel Sunday worship, so be sure to check your email, Facebook, and the TV and radio stations*. If all goes to plan, you should receive any cancellation notification by 8 a.m. Sunday morning - if not sooner. However, in the event that we lose power and/or internet connection we will be unable to post these notifications.

*It is possible to check the RI Broadcasters list of cancellations from their home page at www.ribroadcasters.com and scroll down to the red 'View Current Closures' button, or you can access them directly [at this link](#).



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



Education building is open with some important requirements

The education building is open 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 (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

(**Dale** 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 !