



February 15, 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*

Sun, Feb 18

10 am All Ages Worship Service

Mon, Feb 19 Presidents Day

Office Closed

Tues, Feb 20

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

10:30 am Book Group, Library

7 pm Deacons meeting, Library

Wed, Feb 21

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Feb 22

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

12 - 1 pm Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall

Sun, Feb 25

10 am Worship Service, Church School

Mon, Feb 26

11 am Lay Visitation meeting, Library

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

Tues, Feb 27

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Feb 28

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Feb 29

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

12 - 1 pm Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall

Sun, Mar 3

8:45 am Church School Team meeting, Library

10 am Worship Service with Communion, Church School

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](#).



This weekend

We're building a Prayer Garden

As Racquel shared in [her blog last week](#), we will be building a prayer garden in the sanctuary through Lent. Racquel will begin the garden with our children in worship **this Sunday, February 18** and it will grow a bit each week as we add more elements to the garden. May this exercise remind us to create sacred spaces in our own lives through the season and invite God in!



Lenten Lunches - please RSVP by Sunday

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 this 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](#).



New in this eBridge

Altar flower donors needed

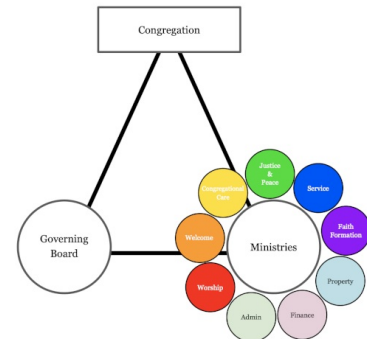
There are some openings in March for congregation members to pay for the flowers on the altar. The arrangements are delivered each week from a local florist (The Greenery in Warren), each

vase costs \$30, and donors can choose to pay for one or both vases. The flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event (anniversary, birthday etc) and your dedication will be included in the bulletin and also read during the service. If you're interested in giving flowers some Sunday in March, please call Barbara Lee of our Chancel Team, at barbaralee957@hotmail.com or (401) 835-8160. Thank you.



Latest Update - 2/15/24

We continue the movement into our **new organizational structure**. The **Governing Board** met informally this past Monday for dinner to get to know one another and begin to think about how often and when they will be meeting. The first order of business will be to begin to understand their role in the new system as well as discuss the recommendation of the "parsonage team" to sell the second parsonage on 4 Nathaniel Drive. Don't worry, any major decision like this one will come before the congregation before any decisions are made (as laid out in **our bylaws**).



Additionally, Dale met with all our **Ministry Coordinators** on Thursday morning (today) to discuss their first steps in supporting our ministry teams. In the coming weeks they should be reaching out to all of our team leaders to open up communication and begin establishing a working relationship.

Besides that, Dale encourages us all to contemplate the new motto for the new model: '**A team for every member and every member on a team!**' How are you engaged in the ministries of our church? More on this to come.

Refugee Settlement Program: Volunteers and Donations Needed

Church member Lory McCoy is working with our friends at Temple Habonim and Dorcas International in helping the large number of refugees coming to RI. The refugees are from Central and South America, Africa, Ukraine and elsewhere.



Dorcas International is locating apartments for the families to live in and is requesting specific items of furniture and **refugee kits** of essential items for the apartments. Monetary donations may also be made to help with the purchase of these items. Volunteers are also needed to help set the apartments up. Youth under 18 can volunteer but must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information about the program, how you might help, and a list of the furniture and other items needed, please contact Lory McCoy at 401-369-2341 or Lsnadymccoy@gmail.com

The Giving Plate

The giving plate began in September of 2023 and has been making its way around our congregation. Recipients of the plate receive the gift of what is on it, bake or purchase another food item to place on it, then pass it along to another member or friend of the congregation during our prayer time in worship, as a prayer of thanksgiving.



Thank you to everyone who has participated so far, and to Rev. Racquel for starting the plate on its journey among the congregation. [The words on the plate](#)

Death of a former member

We recently learned of the death of **Ann Wood** who was an active member of BCCUCC until she moved to Arizona in the fall of 2016 to

be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. Ann was a member of BCCUCC from 1993, and had a particular interest in social justice issues and outreach. She chaired (or co-chaired) the Social Action and Justice Team - later renamed the Justice and Witness Team, then the Mission and Justice Team - from 2006 to 2011. She also spent many years taking care of our little ones in the church nursery.

A Celebration of Ann's life will be held in Arizona at a later date. Please keep Ann's family in your prayers. [Obituary](#)



Thank you.....

....from the Women's Resource Center

We received a Valentine card yesterday from the Women's Resource Center (WRC) addressed to the Barrington Congregational Church Family (see right) so we wanted to share it with you all. The inside of the card reads "Thank you for sustaining us. Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at the Women's Resource Center".

Our Mission and Justice Team made a donation of \$500 at the beginning of December to their 2023 Adopt-A-Family holiday giving program. A further \$2,020 was sent later from the congregation's donations. Their program was able to help 48 families, including 95 children, with gift cards for toys, games, crafts, books, music, clothing and food. WRC also sent us a couple of letters of thanks which can be [read here](#).



....from Holy Joe's Cafe

Our Mission and Justice Team made a donation of \$200 at the end of 2023 to [Holy Joe's Cafe](#) and we received the following note of thanks together with some [photos](#):

*Dear Friends of Barrington Congregational Church,
What started with a single bag of coffee, the Holy Spirit transformed into a unique, worldwide coffee ministry for chaplains, the troops they serve and everybody else thirsty in the area 24/7 365 for the last seventeen years.*

The one thing God needs is our Yes. This is Holy Joe's Cafe, His almighty, all loving presence in a cup of coffee. Thank you for your prayers and your financial support. God bless you.



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 Racquel and titled "Turning toward the sunshine and the sacred". 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, March 11**. 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, March 5** 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 February's collection.



A SignUpGenius for March donations will soon be created for donating specific items. It will be in the next eBridge (2/29/24) and in upcoming Sunday Announcements. If you need help signing up please call the church office (401) 246-0111.

The **deadline** for March food donations is **Sunday, March 17**. The **packing of the bags** will take place on **Wednesday, March 20** 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, March 7 & 14**. 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 so there's no meeting on 2/19).

Their next meetings are on **Mondays, Feb 26, Mar 4, 11, & 18**. 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

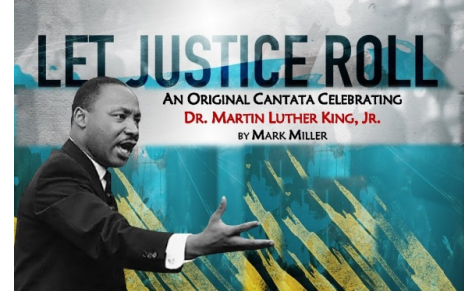
3 pm

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](#)



Music and Praise at Park Place Congregational Church, UCC Sunday, February 25 at 6 pm

You Are Cordially Invited to
Park Place Church
71 Park Place
Pawtucket, RI 02860
February 25th, 2024
6 p.m.



Join us for a song filled evening of praising God!
A Free will offering will be taken to benefit our heating repairs.
Reception to follow downstairs! All are welcome to join us for fellowship!

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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