



February 16, 2023

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

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

For those unable to attend worship in person, our Sunday service is also livestreamed and can be watched at the following links on [our Facebook page](#), on [our website](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#) - either live or viewed later.

The Sunday worship bulletin is also posted to [our website](#) to make it easier to follow the service when watching online.

Thurs, Feb 16

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library
5 - 7 pm Outside Use of Fellowship Hall

Sun, Feb 19

10 am All Ages Worship Service (in-person and online)
After Worship: Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Mon, Feb 20 Presidents' Day

Office Closed

Tues, Feb 21

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
10:30 am Book Group, Library
7 pm Deacons' meeting, Library

Wed, Feb 22 Ash Wednesday

7 pm Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
After service ends: Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Sun, Feb 26

10 am Worship Service (in-person and online), Church School
After worship: Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Room 6

Mon Feb 27

11 am Lay Visitation meeting, Room 6
3 pm Governance/Ministry Task Force meets, Library
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Room 9 and Fellowship Hall

Tues, Feb 28

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Mar 1

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*
7 pm Prayers of Jesus: Lenten Bible Studay, Library and via Zoom
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Mar 2

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library
6:30 pm Green Team meeting

Sun, Mar 5

8:45 am FFAYM (Faith Formation and Youth Ministry) meeting, Library
10 am Worship Service with Communion (in-person and online), Church School
11:15 am Green Team Guest Speaker, Library
11:20 am Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Room 6

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

Sunday, February 19

All Ages Worship this Sunday!

Sunday, February 19, will be our next All-Ages Worship. We are excited to have folks from four different generations participating in this week's service. Not only that, but Dale has a special project for the children to help with during his sermon. We know it is a holiday weekend, but we invite everyone who is in town to join us for worship and then stick around for pancakes after. It promises to be a fun day!



Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Following worship **this Sunday, February 19**, please join us for a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

Von Ray and Luis Fernandez will be flipping flapjacks with the Youth Group and Confirmation Class of 2023 to raise funds for camperships for our youth at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center, a ministry of the Southern New England Conference UCC. All are welcome to stay after church and enjoy some delicious pancakes and other breakfast goodies and also donate to the fundraiser as they are able.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate food items or to help out with the breakfast. There are still a few slots left to be filled so if you'd like to donate an item for the breakfast or help in some other way, please use this [SignUpGenius](#) to sign up. Questions? Contact Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org.



Ash Wednesday and Lent at BCCUCC

Ash Wednesday Service

Dale and Racquel will be hosting an Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 22** 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.



The Prayers of Jesus: A Lenten Bible Study

We are told time and again that Jesus prays all throughout the Gospels. He goes up on a mountain. He takes a few disciples away with him. He bows his head. He looks up to heaven. However, for as often as we are told Jesus DID pray, we have very few examples of what he ACTUALLY said. In this five week study, we will read ALL the prayers that are attributed to Jesus and discuss what they may have meant to him, to his listeners, and to us today. Join Rev. Dale Azevedo in the church library or online on **Wednesday evenings at 7 pm** from **March 1 thru 29** for this poignant study. Each class will last roughly an hour and be comprised of some short readings, a long discussion, and time for prayer. This will be a hybrid class (**in person and online**) using our new video conferencing equipment!



RSVP to Dale (dale@bccucc.org) or the church office (246-0111) if you want to participate.

A Daily Reflection and Action Step Calendar for Lent

From the BCCUCC Green Team:

In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, and examine our internal spiritual lives as well as the way we live out our Christian faith in the world. Our faith teaches us that humans were put on this earth with the responsibility to be stewards. We also know our individual as well as collective U.S. lifestyles have led to serious harm to God's good creation.

The UCC's Creation Justice Ministries has created a 2023 Lent Resource which is a daily reflection and action calendar to cultivate creation justice. It will help individuals take time to learn, reflect, repent, ask God for forgiveness, and take concrete steps to change course. [Download the resource](#)



Also new in this eBridge (or updated)

UCC Appeal for Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise and is over 41,000 at the time of writing. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade. Immediately after the earthquake, the UCC issued an appeal to assist those affected in the region. "While the earthquake was on the border, the



tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon and Cyprus. We have issued an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event. Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need. All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for 'Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response'. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery."

You may donate in one of several ways:

- online at the national UCC website <https://support.ucc.org/> and designate your gift for 'Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief' in the drop-down box;
- by texting UCCDISASTER to 41444;
- by sending a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Turkey and Syria" on your check in the memo section.

Thank you.

Coffee Hour sign ups!

Thanks to so many of you who are helping with coffee hour on Sundays and to those additional people who signed up last week! We could still use some clean up help each week. Speak with Racquel or contact her at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 104. Thank you.



Sing and Celebrate Choir

Our Sing and Celebrate children's choir will be starting weekly rehearsals again on **Sunday, February 26** in preparation for singing in worship on a date tbd. Rehearsals take place after church in Room 6 (starting around 11:20 am) and last between 20 & 30 minutes. All children in Grades 1 – 5 (boys and girls) are invited to participate in the choir which will be led by Kate Colby and our Music Director, Matthew Marion. It's a wonderful and fun way for young people to learn to sing in a group and to actively participate in the worship service. If you have any questions or for more information, contact Kate Colby at kcolby@fullchannel.net. We hope to have some new children join us!



Lay Visitation - will you join them?

The Lay Visitation group next meets on **Monday, February 27 at 11 am** in Room 6, and they'd love to have you join them. Lay Visitation is a way that congregation members reach out to one another, which is part of BCCUCC's focus in 2023. The group volunteer their time to make phone calls, send cards, and/or visit those in our congregation who are not able to join us in person or are going through a difficult time. They would love to have some more people join them in this ministry. Can you send a card? Make a call? Make a visit? Meet with the group once a month to check in? If the answer is yes and you'd like to volunteer - or you have questions - please contact Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x104.



Guest Speaker after church

The Green Team invites you to meet a member of the Town of Barrington's Resilience and Energy Committee on **Sunday, March 5** following the worship service. Hans Scholl will be informing us of the work that the Resilience and Energy Committee is doing, including the [Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan, 2022](#). All are invited to grab a drink and some goodies from coffee hour and join the Green Team in

the library around **11:15 am** for this important discussion.

Food donations needed for Backpack Program

Thank you to the families that helped fill our 25 monthly bags of food in February that went to students at the DelSesto Middle School in Providence. Our next collection deadline is **Sunday, March 19**. We 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 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**. Please use [this sign-up genius link](#) to mark which items you plan to bring or call the church office to sign up. Please be sure to indicate the number of items you are signing up to donate.



Packing of the bags will take place on **Wednesday, March 22** at **4pm** 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

Where does the money go?

In the church's 2023 budget we set aside \$20,095 to be sent to the ministries of the Southern New England Conference, UCC. For



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

those who may not know, this is our parent conference and it covers all of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Since its founding in 2020, following a merger of the three separate state conferences, it is, by far, the largest conference in the UCC. But where does the money go? What does the conference provide for our churches and communities. The conference affirms that its most important role is to support and equip its local churches to make disciples, work for love and justice, be agents of change, and form covenant partnerships with our communities. All of the conference's resources go toward accomplishing these four goals and they have just released new resources that explain how. You can see a graphic breakdown [here](#) or watch their [latest video](#) to find out more.

Worth repeating....

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Racquel and titled *God Nudges*. If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#).



Ongoing groups / 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. They next meet on **Monday, March 13**. For more information contact either of the facilitators, Betsy Brenner at betsybrenner3@gmail.com or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at aubreyfolk@aol.com or (401) 392-1909.



Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, February 21** at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Where We Come From* by Oscar Casares. [Book Review](#) For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Coffee Chats with Racquel

No Coffee Chat on Thursday, February 23.

Rev. Racquel invites you to join her at Thrive Tribe Café, 60 Maple Avenue, Barrington from **8:30 am – 9:30 am** on **Thursday Mornings** for Coffee Chats. She will be there every Thursday morning unless otherwise noted, and hopes to see you there any time you can make it! All are welcome.



Knitting for Others Group meets in person and online

These knitters get together on the first Tuesday to knit items to be donated - prayer shawls, baby hats, etc. They next meet on **Tuesday, March 7** from **6:30 – 9 pm** and participants have the option to either meet in person in the church library or meet over zoom. Feel free to stop by the library or join the call at any time and stay as long as you like. They hope to use the church's new video conferencing equipment at their gathering which should make it easier to have conversations between those participating online and those in the room. 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 information is not included here for security reasons. It was in the eBridge that was emailed to the congregation.*



Prayer Service on hiatus during Lent

There will be no 10 am Wednesday morning prayer service during Lent (beginning Wednesday, February 22). They will resume on Wed, April 19.



Women of Faith Reading Group

The group meets 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. They welcome women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. Upcoming meetings are on **Thursdays, March 2 & 16**. For more info contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net



Youth Group

The Youth Group is led by Rev. Racquel and welcomes all in Grades 5 - 8. They gather most weeks throughout the year on

Mondays from 6 - 7 pm for fun and fellowship, a simple dinner (usually pizza) and a closing prayer service. *There's no youth group on February 20th as it's school vacation week.* Youth Group meets again on **Mondays, February 27, March 6, 20 & 27.** For more information, including the complete schedule see page 12 of the [2022-23 Guide to Faith Formation](#) or contact Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x104. Note: Youth participating in programs at church must be [registered](#).



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.



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

[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.

Community News

Providence Singers Concert

Join the **Providence Singers** for a concert of beautiful and uplifting music - either on Saturday evening in Providence or Sunday afternoon in Warren.

Finding the Light: Songs of Comfort, Hope and Inspiration

Saturday, March 11 at 7 pm in Grace Episcopal Church, Providence [Tickets](#)

Sunday, March 12 at 3 pm in St. Mary of the Bay, Warren [Tickets](#)

[Program Information](#)

Sunday mornings at BCCUCC

Services livestreamed to Facebook, website and YouTube

All are invited to join us for our **multi-platform worship service** at **10 am**. Masks are optional but we do ask that if you're feeling unwell or have symptoms, that you please stay home and watch online. We continue to run large HEPA air filters in the sanctuary and also have HEPA air filters in most spaces in our Education building.



For those 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](#)

There's also a link to the [Sunday bulletin](#) on our livestream page.

*Occasionally, Facebook doesn't allow us to stream to their platform, and on those occasions it's not possible to watch the service on Facebook. However, you should still be able to find the service on YouTube and on our church website at the links above.

Nursery Care

The **Nursery** is open every Sunday morning to provide loving care for infants and children aged 0 - 3 years old. Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off their child/children in the nursery located in the Education building before going to the worship service.



The **Nursery Nook**, located directly below the sanctuary, is another option for parents with wiggly children of any age to retreat to and still hear the service on the loud speaker down there.

We love the sound of children in worship so parents are welcome to keep their infants and children with them in the sanctuary if they wish. For those who would prefer to worship without distraction, we provide these other options.

Church School classes

Children from PreK through grade 8 attend the first part of worship service in the sanctuary with their families, then after the children's message (or communion on the first Sunday) they leave to go to their Church School classes in the Education building. Their teachers will accompany them. More information about the different church school classes are on pages 9 & 10 of the [2022-2023 Guide to Faith Formation](#). On All Ages Worship Sundays, the children remain in the sanctuary for the entire time and the service is more child friendly.



From the church office

Deadlines for Announcements and eBridge

The deadline for receiving information for inclusion in the eBridge and the Sunday Announcements is **Noon on the Wednesday prior to publication.**

Deadline for next eBridge is **Wed, March 1**. Send information to Christine at office@bccucc.org.



Do you need a Name Tag?

We encourage the congregation to wear nametags to help get to know each other. 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.



Online donations to the church through our website

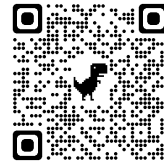
Our church website (www.bccucc.org) is capable of accepting online donations. [Watch a brief video](#) (30 secs) on how to do this, or read the following instructions: There's a red 'DONATE' button on the right side of the black menu bar near the top of each page of the website. Clicking on it will take you to the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page. In the middle is a link to Tithe.ly through which you can make a donation to the church either using a credit card or directly from your bank. (No need to set up an account). You are also able to designate where you would like your



donation to go (pledge, gift, memorial gift, Deacons' Fund, etc).

Questions? Contact Pat Stoddard, Financial Secretary at pat@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 102.

[Visit the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page.](#) OR you can use this QR code to take you directly to our giving page.



Contact us

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Connect with us



Visit our website

Join Our Email List

THE END !