



February 29, 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, Mar 3

8:45 am Church School Team meeting, Library
10 am Worship Service with Communion, Church School

Mon, Mar 4

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

Tues, Mar 5

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

Wed, Mar 6

4 pm Governing Board meeting, Library
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Mar 7

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
12 - 1 pm Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group, Library

Sat, Mar 9

Bedtime: Move clocks forward 1 hour

Sun, Mar 10

Daylight-Saving Time begins
One Great Hour of Sharing offering
10 am Worship Service, Church School

Mon, Mar 11

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

Tues, Mar 12

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Mar 13

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Mar 14

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
12 - 1 pm Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall

6 pm Hameho Garden Club open meeting, Fellowship Hall

Sun, Mar 17

9 am - 12:15 pm OWL class, Library

10 am Worship Service, 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](#).



Lent at BCCUCC

We're building a Prayer Garden

As Racquel included in [her most recent blog](#) we are building a prayer garden in the sanctuary through Lent. On the first and second Sundays we added dirt and seeds, respectively, and it will continue to 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 continue - all welcome!

Please join Pastors Dale and Racquel for Lenten Lunches when they serve simple soup and bread on **Thursdays at Noon**. Remaining dates are **February 29 and March 7, 14, 21, and 28**. All are welcome to come for whichever dates they are able.

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. Dale wrote about the first Lenten Lunch, held February 22, in his [latest blog 'Soup for the Soul'](#) and described it as 'wonderful'. It is helpful to let Racquel know if you're coming - but not required if you decide at the last minute! Contact her at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x104. Thanks.



New in this eBridge

Easter Egg Hunt Team - volunteers needed

Easter is less than 5 weeks away! We are looking for volunteers to coordinate and lead the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. The **Easter Egg Hunt Team** will be responsible for obtaining eggs, filling them, hiding them, and organizing the kids on Easter Morning after the church



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of the 4 special mission offerings that UCC churches nationwide are asked to take each year.

This year the UCC celebrates the 75th anniversary of the OGHS offering and the theme is 'Sharing the Light'. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to OGHS put you in the right place at the right time for the relief and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/oghs. OGHS donation envelopes will be included in the bulletin on **Sunday, March 10** – the date the UCC has set for taking this offering, although donations may be made at any time. Checks may be made out to 'BCCUCC' with 'OGHS' in the memo line and can be either put in the offering plate or mailed into the church office at 461 County Rd, Barrington RI 02806. Online donations may be made from our church website at www.bccucc.org/donation/. Click on the Tithe.ly 'Donate Now' link and choose 'One Great Hour of Sharing' in the dropdown menu. Thank you.



Chancel Fund donations requested

As we look ahead to Easter, we invite you to make a donation to our Chancel Fund at this time. Money donated will be used to help beautify the Sanctuary, including the purchase of Spring plants to decorate the church this Easter. Some of the donations will also be used to purchase plants that will be delivered by the deacons before Easter to our homebound, sick, or recently bereaved. Donations may be made in any amount, large or small, and can be made in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for, or celebration of, someone or something (a person, birthday, anniversary, etc). All dedications will be listed in the Easter Sunday worship service bulletin.



There are two ways to make a donation to the Chancel Fund:

EITHER: Complete a [donation form](#) then return it to the church office (in person or mail to 461 County Rd, Barrington RI 02806) with your donation. Alternatively, the completed form and donation can be put in the offering plate on a Sunday.

OR: Donate online from our church website www.bccucc.org/donation/. Use the Tithe.ly link on our donation page, designate your donation for 'Chancel Fund (Easter flowers)' and then add your dedication in the memo box. Be sure to include who is making the donation as well as if it's given in memory, celebration, or in honor of someone or something.

Deadline for donations is Monday, March 25. Thank you for your donation.

Hameho Garden Club meeting at BCCUCC

The Hameho Garden Club will welcome Spring with a presentation and meeting to be held on **Thursday, March 14** here at BCCUCC. The presentation, "**The Buzz on Bees: The Amazing Honeybee**" by Master Beekeeper Dane Pursley, will begin at **6:30 pm** and is open to the public. All are welcome to attend. The club will hold its meeting at the conclusion of the program.

Questions? Contact Eileen Dennis at efdennis@gmail.com or 245-6296.



United Against Hate Workshop

Federal and local officials throughout the US are working with community members to discuss effective strategies to prevent and respond to hate crimes and incidents.

A **United Against Hate Workshop**, has been organized by the US Attorney's Office, District of RI, in collaboration with Temple Habonim, and will take place on **Tuesday, March 26** at **Temple Habonim**, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. The workshop goals are:

1. Learn how to distinguish between a hate crime, hate incident, discrimination, and free speech.
2. Learn about real-life examples of hate crimes and incidents.
3. Identify the importance and methods of reporting expressions of hate.
4. Share and learn about personal experiences with a diverse, five-member panel.
5. Share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas on how we can mitigate hate in our communities.

The evening's schedule is:

- **5 – 5:30 pm** Registration and (optional) light dinner.
- **5:30 – 7:30 pm** Presentation and Panel Discussions.
- **7:30 – 8 pm** Coffee, desert & networking.

To register, please email David Neill* at david.neill@usdoj.gov and also let him know if you plan to attend the light dinner. There are no costs associated with the workshop event. Prior to the workshop all registrants will receive an email that will include the agenda, parking directions, and a SurveyMonkey survey. *The workshop is limited to 200 participants.*

*David Neill is the Violent Crime Prevention and Community Outreach Coordinator, United States Attorney's Office District of Rhode Island.



Death of a church member

We have learned of the death of long-time church member, **Marion Willey** who passed away on February 8, 2024 at the age of 99. Marion and her late husband, Grafton, joined Barrington Congregational Church in 1957 and their four children grew up here. Marion was active at church and was one of our counters for many years. For health reasons she left Barrington around nine years ago and moved in with her son, Cap and his family in Portsmouth, and then later moved into Atria Aquidneck Place.

Funeral arrangements will be private. Please keep Marion's family in your prayers. [Obituary](#)



Needs repeating

Altar flower donors needed

There are still some openings in the last 3 Sundays of 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 in mid/late March, please call Barbara Lee of our Chancel Team a.s.a.p. at barbaralee957@hotmail.com or (401) 835-8160. Thank you.



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 meets 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, March 19 at 10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahiri. [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.

For security reasons, the Zoom information needed is not included in this version. 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 DeSesto 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.

There's a [March SignUpGenius](#) where you can sign up to donate specific items - and please remember to indicate how many of the items you can donate. 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](#)



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 "Soup for the Soul". 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.



News from the Conference

SNEUCC Super Saturday is back! *Hurry - deadline for onsite registration is leap day.*



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

After a year or so hiatus, Super Saturday is back and will be held on **Saturday, March 9**, from **8 am - 4:30 pm**, at Wellsworth Hotel, **Southbridge, MA**. SNEUCC Executive Conference Minister Rev. Darrell Goodwin will offer his wisdom about partnerships and building connections during opening devotions and an hour-long workshop in the afternoon.

Super Saturday participants can attend in person or virtually and all should register for 3 workshops (out of 28 onsite, or out of 8 online). Find complete Information and registration at www.sneucc.org/super-saturday

Registration deadline for **onsite attendance** has been extended to **February 29!**

Last day to register for **online participation** is **March 4**. No walk-ins accepted.

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

SILVER LAKE
Camp & Retreat Center

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center is an outdoor ministries site of the Southern New England Conference, UCC that strives to create an intentional, welcoming, Christian community accessible to all. The camp provides a traditional outdoor camp experience for those entering grades 4-12 within the open and affirming setting. The staff and SNEUCC believe that exposure to diverse expressions of humanity is beneficial to all God's children. Silver Lake welcomes and affirms campers, staff, volunteers, and guests of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, and sexual orientations.

Silver Lake is not just for youth! Adults and families can be engaged in this ministry, from Family Camp to volunteer opportunities to coming on retreat and Spring weekend programs.

2024 Registration is open. They're still accepting applications for summer staff, as well as volunteers. Learn more at www.silverlakeect.org

Keep up to date with our Conference - SNEUCC



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

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.

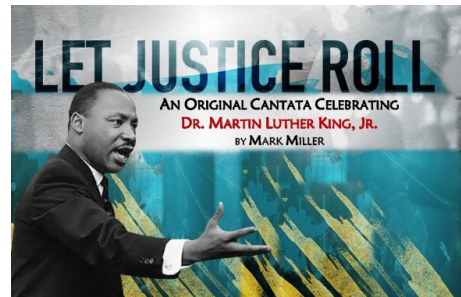
From the Church Office:

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

Community News

"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](#)

Tickets are going fast for the following concert - so purchase yours while you can!

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>

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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