



March 14, 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, Mar 14

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
12 - 1 pm Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall
6 pm Hamaho Garden Club open meeting, Fellowship Hall

Sun, Mar 17

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

Mon, Mar 18

11 am Lay Visitation Meeting, Library
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall and Room 9

Tues, Mar 19

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

Wed, Mar 20

4 pm Pack bags for LFRI Backpack program, Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Mar 21

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
4 - 5:30 pm Governing Board meets, Library

Sun, Mar 24 Palm / Passion Sunday

10 am Worship Service, Lenten Lollapalooza during Church School time

Tues, Mar 26

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Mar 27

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

Thurs, Mar 28 Maundy Thursday

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
12 - 1 pm Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall
7 pm Service of Tenebrae and Communion, Sanctuary
After service: Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Fri, Mar 29 Good Friday

Office Closed

Sunrise to Sunset - Good Friday Labyrinth Walk

Noon - Prayers at the Labyrinth

Sun, Mar 31 Easter

6:15 am Outdoor Ecumenical Easter Service with Communion, Osamequin Point

10 am Easter Worship Service, Nursery Care only

After worship: Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour

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 continues

Our Prayer Garden is growing

We are building a prayer garden in the sanctuary through Lent. We've added one element each Sunday and have so far added dirt, seeds, rocks, and water. The garden will continue to grow a little each week as more elements are added..

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 **March 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. The number of participants has been growing each week and the soups have been delicious!

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.



Getting ready for Easter!

Easter Egg Hunt Team - more volunteers needed!

We're busy preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt that will take

place after worship on Easter Sunday. Jack Mycroft has volunteered to lead the **Easter Egg Hunt Team** that's organizing it, and has some help - but more volunteers are needed. If you can help, please contact Jack at jackmycroft@aol.com or (401) 447-9790, or our Welcome Coordinator, Barbara Lee at barbaralee957@hotmail.com or (401) 835-8160. 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.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Palm Sunday

"Open for us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter and give thanks...Bind the festal offerings with branches and palms!"

Psalm 118

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Holy One! Hosanna in the highest!" *Matthew 21*



Join us on **Palm Sunday, March 24**, as we begin our journey through Holy Week with our Palm Sunday service at **10 a.m.** At this service we will commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and add the final pieces to our Lenten Prayer Garden. Not only that, our Church School will be holding it's annual **Lenten Lollapalooza** (more details on that below). This service will do a lot to set the context for the holiest week of the Christian year.

Eco palms

Since 2008, BCCUCC has been promoting environmental and social justice by using eco palms for Palm Sunday. Purchasing these Fair Trade palms improves the income and living conditions of the communities gathering the palms, and also protects the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs. Learn more at <https://ecopalms.org>. Both eco palms and the straight palms (that can be made into palm crosses) will be available for pick up on your way into church on Palm Sunday.



Lenten Lollapalooza

On **Palm Sunday, March 24** the Church School Team will be hosting the Lenten Lollapalooza in Fellowship Hall during the regular church school time. All of the church school kiddos are invited to come and have fun with **all new crafts!** Paint will be involved, so please dress accordingly and/or bring a smock (we will have a few available here). It is bound to be a great time, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.



Maundy Thursday Lunch

The last of our Lenten Lunches will take place on **Maundy, Thursday, March 28**. Even if you haven't made it to any of the other lunches, you are very welcome to join us for this final one. The soup is always delicious and there's good conversation. For more information, see the earlier article in the 'Lent continues' section.

As always, it's 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.



Mundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

The Deacons invite the congregation to attend a Tenebrae Service at **7 pm** on **Thursday, March 28**. Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") is a church service observed during the final part of Holy Week commemorating the sufferings and death of Christ. The Deacons consider it to be one of the most moving services held at our church. Hymns will be sung; the choir will also sing and there will be Communion by intinction. The essence of the service is the reading of the Passion – the time just prior to and including Christ's crucifixion. 12 Deacons are gathered around a table at the front of the sanctuary along with 12 candles, which provide most of the lighting. After each scripture passage is read, the Deacon extinguishes the candle in front of them leaving the sanctuary in total darkness for a brief time after the twelfth reading. For some, it is a powerful reminder of the foundation of our faith and what we believe. We urge you to come and experience this special service – all are welcome.



Good Friday Labyrinth Walk and Prayers

The church labyrinth, which is located behind the education building just below the terrace, will be open from **sunrise to sunset** on **Good Friday, March 29** and you're invited to come walk it whenever you are able.

At **noon**, Rev. Racquel Ray will lead a brief prayer service at the labyrinth. All are welcome.



Easter Sunday

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

All are invited to this outdoor Ecumenical Easter Sunrise service with Communion, held jointly with St. James Lutheran Church. The service will be at **6:15 am** on **Easter Sunday, March 31** at Osamequin Point which is located 1.1 miles north of the church on the Wampanoag Trail (Route 114).



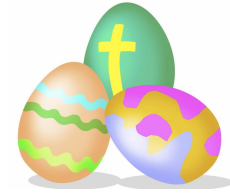
Easter Sunday Service in the Sanctuary

All are invited to our **10 am service on Easter Sunday, March 31**. The sanctuary will be decorated with spring flowers and the service will include preaching by the Rev. Dale Azevedo, a children's message, and music from the organ and choir. Come celebrate Christ's resurrection with us! Following the service there will be a Coffee Hour and an Easter Egg Hunt (see below).



Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children in the lower elementary grades will take place **after the 10 am Easter Service**. Children are asked to gather in Fellowship Hall following the service from where they will be sent out by age (youngest first) to hunt for eggs outside. Bring a basket! All are welcome. There will also be **coffee hour** in Fellowship Hall following the service.



Also happening....

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 in our Fellowship Hall. 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.

Photo: Dane Pursley with a swarm of honey bees.



Invitation to a Passover Seder

In light of the tragic circumstances in our world and in particular the Middle East, and in the spirit of friendship and fellowship, **Temple Habonim** is inviting members of the Barrington churches to a Passover Seder in **their synagogue** at 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington on **Thursday, April 4** from **5:30 – 7 pm**.

Although this will be a traditional Jewish Passover Seder, it will not involve their Temple members. This Seder is **for the interfaith community** as a moment of outreach: an opportunity to experience their most important holiday in a warm and engaging way. Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman will be leading the Seder, but in accordance with their tradition, everyone who attends will be participating in the program. Please note that they will not be serving dinner, but in accordance with their customs, there will be traditional Passover foods such as Matzah and hard boiled eggs.

There is no charge for the evening, but everyone who wishes to attend should **RSVP by Monday, March 25** at www.cutt.ly/THBSeder. There is a limit of about 125 people. Questions? Please contact Leslie Katz at vp@templehabonim.org



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.



BHS students host Sapling Sale for community tree planting

The [Barrington Environmental Establishment \(BEE\)](#) is hosting a sapling sale to help offset the amount of paper Barrington uses in a year. BEE is a student led organization at Barrington High School that focuses on spreading awareness about climate change and is hosting this community tree-planting as part of the nationwide ['Tree-Plenish' program](#).

BEE's goal is to sell 143 saplings (equal to 171 tons of carbon replaced) to reach a total of 1,000 saplings sold by BEE overall.

Saplings cost \$5 each and there are 3 types - Eastern Redbud, Red Maple, and Yellow Poplar. Pickup is on May 18 (more details from them on pick up closer to the date). Orders must be placed **by April 18**. Use the following links to [Order a Sapling](#), see [photos of the three tree types](#) being offered, learn about [planting and taking care of the saplings](#), and learn [Why We Need Trees](#) (scroll down that linked page to find it!)



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, April 8. 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, April 2** 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.

The Zoom information needed isn't 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 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 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.*

Their next meetings are on **Mondays, Mar 18, Apr 8, 22 & 29**. 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

Office closings

The church office will be closed on **Good Friday, March 29** and on **Easter Monday, April 1**.

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

If you missed it earlier, the latest blog was written by Racquel and titled "Just Go For It!". You can [read it here](#).



News from the Conference

Silver Lake Camp and 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



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.
- Church School Classes.
- Learn more about Church School and our other programs for children and youth.
- In the event of bad weather.

From the Church Office:

- Do you need a nametag?
- 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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