



March 24, 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.

Thurs, Mar 24

8 am Peaceful Pause and Prayer, Livestreamed
6 - 7 pm Lenten Bible Study, via Zoom

Sun, Mar 27

One Great Hour of Sharing offering

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online), Church School resumes

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

Mon, Mar 28

11 am - Noon: Bereavement Group, Library

Tues, Mar 29

8 am Peaceful Pause and Prayer - livestreamed
11 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Mar 30

6 - 7 pm Lent in the Labyrinth, Outside behind Fellowship Hall
7:30 - 9 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Mar 31

8 am Peaceful Pause and Prayer - livestreamed
6 - 7 pm Lenten Bible Study, via Zoom

Sat, Apr 2

11 am Celebration of Diane Todd's Life, Sanctuary. Reception following

Sun, Apr 3

8:30 am FF&YM meeting (Faith Formation & Youth Ministry)

10 am Worship Service with Communion (in-person & online), Church School

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

Mon, Apr 4

Deadline for Chancel Fund donations

6 - 7 pm Junior Youth Group (Grades 5-8), Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

Tues, Apr 5

8 am Peaceful Pause and Prayer, Livestreamed

11 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others Group meets via Zoom

Wed, Apr 6

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

6 - 7 pm Lent in the Labyrinth, Outside behind Fellowship Hall

7:30 - 9 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Apr 7

8 am Peaceful Pause and Prayer, Livestreamed

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

6 - 7 pm Lenten Bible Study, via Zoom

Sat, Apr 9

8 am - 2 pm Outside use of Fellowship Hall

Sun, Apr 10 Palm/Passion Sunday

10 am Worship Service (in-person & online), Lenten Lollapalooza during Church School time

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

For the complete church calendar visit <http://bccucc.view-events.com>

Send calendar information to office@bccucc.org

This weekend at BCCUCC

OGHS offering - Sunday, March 27th

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of the 4 offerings that UCC churches nationwide are asked to take each year. This year's theme is '**Love Remains**'. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to OGHS you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, love remains. *Learn more at* www.ucc.org/oghs



OGHS donation envelopes will be included in the bulletin **this Sunday, March 27th** – the date the UCC has set for taking this offering. 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 drop-down menu. Thank you.

Church School returns

HOORAY!!! Church school will be resuming **this Sunday, March 27th**. We are excited to welcome the kiddos into the Education Building to participate in all of our children's programs. Masks are now optional. If anyone is not feeling their best, please enjoy the children's message during the service from home.



Nursery Care available

Nursery Care is available every Sunday morning for children aged 3 and under. Our nursery is located in the Education building across the driveway from the church.



Relaxed COVID protocols at BCCUCC

As a result of the low COVID rates in RI, we are continuing with our more relaxed protocols at BCCUCC (decided by Church Council on March 8th). Included is that **masking is optional** in both the church and education buildings, although masking is still required to enter the church office. There is also no longer a requirement to sign in when coming to worship on Sundays. For the remainder of the changes, [read about them here](#)



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. Masks are now optional in worship. We do ask that if you're feeling unwell or have symptoms, that you please stay home and watch online.



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](#)

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.

New in this eBridge

Congratulations, Racquel

On Sunday, March 13th an Ecclesiastical Council was held for our acting Associate Minister, Racquel Ray. It was hosted via Zoom by the RI Association of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC, and Conference clergy, delegates, and friends attended virtually. Racquel talked about her call to ministry, and in addition her ordination paper had been made available to the clergy and delegates ahead of time. She answered many questions and at the end of the session, Racquel and visitors left the main meeting while the clergy and delegates discussed and took a vote. By unanimous decision, Racquel was approved ready and eligible for ordination, pending a call. Congratulations!



Celebration of the life of Diane Todd

A service to celebrate the life of Diane Todd will be held in our sanctuary on **Saturday, April 2nd** at 11 a.m., followed by a light reception. All are welcome. Diane passed away unexpectedly on January 8th of this year.



Chancel Fund donations sought for 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 a special insert to be included in the Easter 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.

Thank you for your donation. **Deadline for donations is Monday, April 4th.**

Easter Sunday Services - April 17th

6 am Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Osamequin Point
10 am Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary



Youth Group to resume - and 5th graders are invited to join.

BUT...it can't happen without adult volunteers!

Our Junior Youth Group is scheduled to resume in April, facilitated by Pastor Racquel Ray. All 5th Grade students are now invited to join the group (for grades 5 – 8).

We are scheduled to meet **Mondays, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 23, and June 6** from **6-7 pm** in Fellowship Hall and the kitchen - and pizza is provided. We will move outside as the weather cooperates. Activities will include labyrinth, campfire, prayer, dinner, play and fellowship.



Unfortunately, Youth Group cannot happen without a second adult being present with Racquel. See later under 'Volunteer Opportunities' section for how you can help.

With questions about Youth Group or to volunteer, please contact Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104..

Interesting in joining our church?

Then plan to stick around for a short time after church on **Sunday, April 10th** to meet with Dale to find a time for all those interested to get together for 'Conversations about our Church' – a 90 minute class he leads in preparation for joining. New Member Sunday is May 1st. Questions? Contact Dale at dale@bccucc.org or 246-0111 ext 103.

You're making a difference!

Following guest speaker Ray Rickman's visit to BCCUCC on February 13th, our congregation donated \$3,440 for his Swim Empowerment program. We received the following thank you note from him:

Dear Church Members:

Our great thanks for your collective donation to our Swim Empowerment program at



*Stages of Freedom. Your kindness and magnificent generosity means that 34 black youth will learn to swim this summer.
Please know how appreciated your outreach is on improving racial inequalities in RI.
Blessings,
Ray Rickman*

Volunteer Opportunities

Youth Group needs adult chaperones

As noted earlier, our Junior Youth Group is scheduled to resume in April, facilitated by Racquel BUT it can't meet without a second adult being present. A small group (3-5) of dedicated adults to rotate through the next 7 meetings would be a gift! **Could you be one of those volunteers?** JYG meetings are for just one hour (6-7 pm) on Monday evenings, and are scheduled for April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 23, and June 6 in Fellowship Hall and the kitchen - plus pizza is provided! To volunteer or with questions, please contact Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104.



Volunteers needed to be Greeters

We are resuming having greeters again to welcome both visitors and old friends to our Sunday morning worship service. We'd like two (or more) people each Sunday with someone at the Vestry door entrance, and another at the main door entrance on the narthex level (for Sundays when those doors are open). Masking is optional, and since COVID the practice of shaking hands might make some uncomfortable, so just a friendly smile and a welcome is all that's needed – plus a willingness to direct newcomers where to go and answer any questions. If you are interested in being a greeter some Sunday, please contact Joanne D'Adamo at (401) 575-8960 or joannedadamo5@gmail.com. Individuals, couples and families are all welcome to sign up!



It's time for Coffee Hour! Help needed to make it happen

At their latest meeting, Church Council discussed the future of coffee hour after worship. Everyone felt it was time to start planning for a return to these meaningful times for fellowship and sharing. Especially with the weather getting nicer, it would make it easier to open up Fellowship Hall to the outside as an added COVID precaution. However, our biggest challenge is finding folks able and willing to host the event.



Would you be able to help make coffee and cleanup some Sunday? Most of the setup is handled by our custodial staff and some people have stepped forward to bake or donate some food, but preparing the coffee, staffing the tables, and cleanup are the big hurdle. Are you able to help out with this? Keep in mind, coffee hour doesn't have to be majorly involved. It can be a smaller production than it used to be. ANYTHING would be better than nothing. If you are willing to help out in this capacity, even if only occasionally, please let the church office know so we can move forward in making some plans (office@bccucc.org or 401 246-0111). We hope to get many volunteers so coffee hour can begin again very soon. Thanks so much!!

Lay Visitation Group needs volunteers

This sincere group of dedicated members volunteers their time to make

phone calls, send cards, and visit those in our congregation who are not able to join us in person. As the pandemic visitation restrictions ease, our group is in need of a few more volunteers. Can you send a card? Make a call? Visit a friend? Meet with the group once a month to check in?

If interested or to learn more, please reach out to Rev. Dale at dale@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 103; or Pastor Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 ext 104.



Loaves & Fishes BACKPACK program - food donations needed

Our church is providing food bags to 25 students in need at the DelSesto Middle School in Providence one Friday a month for the remainder of the school year (March, April, May, and June). The first delivery will take place tomorrow, March 25th. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out on Tuesday to help with the preparation.

We are partnering with 'We Share Hope' (<https://wesharehope.org>) to receive some donated groceries, and 'Books are Wings' (<https://www.booksarewings.org>) who are donating 2 books per student. To supplement these donations and continue to fill the bags, we hope to add regular items each month such as peanut butter, bread, oatmeal, canned tuna, canned chicken, pasta, pasta sauce, fruit cups, shelf stable pudding etc - and are asking the congregation to help by donating these food items.

Please use this [sign-up genius link](#) to mark which items you plan to donate OR call the church office to sign up. Please be sure to indicate the number of items you are signing up to donate.

Food donations need to be dropped off at the church no later than Sunday, April 10th so that the bags can be packed before our next delivery to the DelSesto School on April 15th. A collection box will be placed in the narthex as you go up the stairs to the sanctuary.

If you wish to help pack the bags, we will next meet in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday April 12th** at 4pm. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Future BACKPACK program collection deadlines are: May 22 and June 19.



Opportunities for Study and Reflection

'Peaceful Pause and Prayer'

All are invited to join Dale for 'Peaceful Pause and Prayer' online meditations every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8 am. 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.



Lent in the Labyrinth

Join Pastor Racquel at our outdoor labyrinth (located beyond the terrace of the Education Building) for a quiet, candle lit walk – any time between 6 and 7 pm as you are able. Remaining dates are **Wednesdays, Mar 30th & Apr 6th & Good Friday, Apr 15th** when we will consider how to **Forgive, Draw Close, and Sacrifice** in parallel with BCCUCC's weekly Lenten themes for 2022.

Note: All are welcome, however the ground is uneven and challenging for folks with physical differences.



Lenten Bible Study

Journey through Lent to Earth Day exploring the complex issues around Environmental Justice in a Bible Study prepared by SNEUCC Minister for Environment & Economic Justice, Emma Brewer-Wallin, who will our guest preacher on Sun, April 24th.

All are welcome to join Pastor Racquel for any of the remaining sessions from 6 - 7 pm via Zoom on **Thursdays,**

Mar 24, 31 & Apr 7, 14, & 21. There are videos to watch ahead of time to better inform the study conversations. Please register to request weekly lessons and links by contacting Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org.



From our Mission and Justice Team

Holy Joe's Cafe

The Mission and Justice Team wants to make the congregation aware of an important giving opportunity for military chaplains, who support active-duty military personnel. **Holy Joe's Café** is a UCC-supported organization, which provides coffee



to military chaplains to help them make connections with active-duty military personnel. The simple act of providing coffee to them gives chaplains a way to reach out to troops and initiate conversations, that might not otherwise have occurred.

Holy Joe's Café originated at a UCC church in Wallingford, CT in 2006. Since 2006 Holy Joe's Café has grown to serve billions of cups of coffee and helped open over 300 coffee houses, mainly in the Middle East but also in places like Africa, Europe, and NATO military hospitals (*source – Holy Joe's Café website*).

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Holy Joe's Café is seeing an urgent increase in the demand for coffee and support for U.S. military chaplains, due to the rapid deployment of troops to Europe.

Prior to the pandemic, donations for Holy Joe's Café were collected during Coffee Hour. Until Coffee Hour is reinstituted, donations may be made on-line at <https://www.holyjoes.org/>, OR by sending a check payable to 'BCCUCC' with 'Holy Joe's Café' in the memo line, OR through Tithe.ly on the [donation page](#) of our church website (choose 'Holy Joe's Café' from the drop down menu). Thank you.

Environmental Justice Internship

The Southern New England Conference, UCC is pleased to announce an Environmental Justice Internship for 2022-2023. The Environmental Justice Intern will help us create and lead school-year programming for youth or other church groups, hosted at two of our Outdoor Ministry sites, Silver Lake in Sharon, Connecticut and Irons Homestead, North Scituate, Rhode Island. [Click here for more information.](#)



Ongoing groups

Bereavement Group

The group will meet on **Monday, March 28th** from 11 am - Noon in the church library. (*Note the later start time and change of location*). 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.

Knitting for Others Group

The Knitting Group will meet again on **Tuesday, April 5th** 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 needed was included in the email sent to the congregation and is not included here for security reasons.



Women of Faith Reading Group

The group will meet again on **Thursday, April 7th** 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. For more information including their current book or article for discussion, contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net.



Book Group

The Book Group will next meet **Tuesday, April 19th** at 9:30 am at the Water Street Cafe, 279 Water St, Warren, RI (weather permitting). They will discuss *Map of Salt and Stars* by Zahn Joukhader. For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome to participate.



Reminders

FREE At-Home Rapid COVID Tests still available - no limits

The church still has supplies of COVID test kits. The kits are available for pick up on the way out of church each Sunday or you can contact the church office (401) 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org to arrange a pick up during the week. Each box contains two tests. There is no limit on how many can be taken by a person or household. If you know of others who need them, please take and pass along.

Important note: Many COVID test kits have had their **expiration date extended by 3 months** as more research has been done on the chemicals used. The AccessBio test kits we received show an expiration date of APR 2022. Checking the lot number on their website shows that the expiration date has been extended to JULY 2022. Information couldn't be found for the iHealth test kits which are labelled to expire 2022-06-28.



UCC emergency appeal for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refugee in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

[Donate here](#) or go to the UCC website www.ucc.org and click on the [link on the home page](#) to learn more. All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need.

One can also mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section.

In case you missed it

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Racquel and titled *Walking the Labyrinth of Life*. If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#)



"Wrestling with the Church" - a blog written by Jeff Larsen

Rev. Jeff Larsen - our former Senior Minister - recently started writing a blog on his reflections of 50 years in ministry. If you're interested in some of his stories (some might sound vaguely familiar) you can find them [at this link](#). You can also subscribe (it's free) to get his latest story sent to your email inbox.



From the church office

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 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

Contact us

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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.

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THE END !