



April 11, 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*

Sat, Apr 13

8 am - 12:30 pm Outside use of Fellowship Hall

Sun, Apr 14

8:45 am Church School Team meeting, Library

10 am Worship Service, Church School

11:15 am Brief meeting with Dale and those interested in joining the church, Library

Mon, Apr 15

7 pm Bible Study with Dale, Library

Tues, Apr 16

9:30 am - 1:30 pm Outside use of Fellowship Hall

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

10:30 am Book Group, Library

7 pm Deacons meeting, Library

Wed, Apr 17

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Apr 18

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

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

Sun, Apr 21 Creation Care Sunday

10 am All Ages Worship Service, Nursery Care only

After Worship: Informational meeting about possible sale of Nathaniel Parsonage, Sanctuary

Tues, Apr 23

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Apr 24

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

4 pm Pack bags for LFRI Backpack program, Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, Apr 25

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

Sun, Apr 28

'Royalties for Negro Spirituals' offering

9 am - 12:15 pm OWL class, Library

10 am Worship Service, Church School

Immediately after worship: Special Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

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](#).



Happy Easter Season Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!



Photo: Our finished Lenten Prayer Garden on Easter Sunday with the stone rolled away.

On Easter morning the congregation was delighted to find the sanctuary decorated with many beautiful paper butterflies, plus a giant purple one, thanks to the talents and effort of Elizabeth and Dale Azevedo who made and hung them all up. The butterflies had previously been seen in 2019 and it was lovely to see them back in the sanctuary this Easter - not just for their visual appeal but also for their symbolism.

Thanks also go to the members of our Chancel Team who, on Saturday morning, decorated the sanctuary so beautifully with the Easter flowers. Thanks to [all who donated](#) to the Chancel Fund making possible the purchase of these flowers, as well as the plants delivered by our deacons before Easter to our homebound, sick or recently bereaved.

Wondering what happened to the God's Eyes that were at the front of the sanctuary? Don't worry, they're still on display but have moved to a new location which you'll discover on Sunday!

The prayer garden has now been taken down and the plants relocated to our outdoor prayer garden along the south wall of the church where they'll get more sunlight and natural watering! Thanks to Dale, Racquel and everyone who helped create and keep the garden growing over the weeks of Lent. May we continue to create sacred spaces in our own lives and invite God in.

This Sunday and next week at BCCUCC

Interesting in possibly joining our church?

If the answer is yes, then plan to stay after church **this Sunday, April 14** for a very brief meeting in the **library** with Dale and others interested, to schedule a New Members Class at a time convenient for everyone. Whether you've been coming for only a few weeks or for much longer, all are welcome to learn more about joining and becoming an official member of BCCUCC.

If you have questions or would like to let Dale know ahead of time that you're interested in joining, contact him at dale@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 103.



Update on Racquel's knee surgery

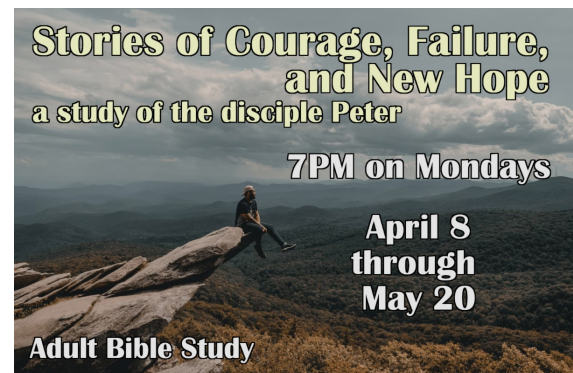
Rev. Racquel had orthoscopic knee surgery on April 4th to repair an injury which occurred last summer. The surgery went well and she's now undergoing several weeks of recovery and physical therapy but plans to be back in worship on April 14. Your prayers and well wishes are greatly appreciated!



Adult Bible Study with Dale

Stories of Courage, Failure, and New Hope: a study of the disciple Peter is being offered by Rev. Dale. It began on Monday, April 8 but **it's not too late to join!**

It's a six week study that continues through May 20 – but with no class on April 22. Also, it's not mandatory that you make every class. The study involves a small amount of reading between classes and consists mostly of group conversation and discussion each week. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary, and everyone is welcome. We have a fun time exploring our faith and questions together. It's helpful to Dale if you **RSVP** ahead of time if you plan to attend (dale@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 103) - or you can just show up if you decide at the last minute! All are welcome.



Special Congregational Meeting

A recommendation to sell our second parsonage

A year ago the question was raised as to what BCCUCC ought to do with our second parsonage which is currently vacant. At the time, it was being rented by a congregation member who had suffered a housefire and was awaiting repairs. Last fall a team was put together to explore various options for the house (leave vacant, rent, or sell). The team came back with a recommendation



to sell the parsonage.

Recently, the Governing Board met with Tom Colby (Finance Coordinator) and Dale Azevedo (Sr. Minister), as required by the by-laws, to discuss the recommendation. That group agreed with the recommendation and is calling for a **congregational meeting** to vote on the recommendation. If the congregation approves the recommendation, a second congregational meeting will be called to vote a second time on the recommendation. The by-laws require two consecutive votes by the congregation before moving forward with any “significant financial transaction”.

Please see the warrant for the official call below, and try to attend this important congregational meeting to be held in the sanctuary immediately after worship on **Sunday, April 28**. Thank you.

Informational meeting

Got questions? Then come to an Informational Meeting about the recommendation to sell the Nathaniel Road parsonage to be held **after church in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 21**. All in the congregation are invited to attend. Come learn what factors led the team to recommend the sale of the property and ask any questions that you may have.



Warrant

Warrant for a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL Meeting Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island Sunday, April 28, 2024

A Special Congregational Meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, is hereby called to take place in the sanctuary following the regular 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, April 28, 2024**.



The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To review and vote on the recommendation to sell the parsonage at 4 Nathaniel Road, Barrington.
- ARTICLE III: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE IV: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Greg Voigt*, Clerk

Also new in this eBridge

Creation Care Sunday

Earth Day is Monday, April 22, and we'll celebrate **Creation Care Sunday** on **April 21**. In Racquel's most recent blog, [Earth Day](#), she writes about the importance of being a good steward of creation, and suggests some ways in which we might do this including **bringing your own mug** (or use one of the church's) for coffee hour on April 21. She also invites you to **share your own Creation Care ideas** during the worship service that day, and during fellowship time at coffee hour.



Talking of Earth Day and Creation Care.....

- Barrington Land Conservation Trust invite you to join them for a Clean-up of Allin's Cove Conservation Area on **Sunday, April 21**, from **1 to 3 pm**. Help them clean up litter as well as debris that has washed ashore over the winter. All ages are welcome with parental supervision. <https://www.blct.org/earth-day-eve-cleanup-at-allins-cove/>
- Look and Find Family Nature Walk/Raffle at Osamequin Nature Preserve. Families can do this at their leisure anytime between **April 6 and 21**. Hidden clues along the trails will help you solve a word scramble. It's free and you can win a hiking backpack full of cool stuff. Learn more at <https://barringtonlibrary.libcal.com/event/11998398?hs=a>

SNEUCC Women's Connection Spring Gathering 2024

Saturday, April 27 from 9 am – 3 pm

at First Congregational Church, Portland CT.

'The Role of the Church in Mental Health Care and Ministry'

with Rev. Dr. Ciarán Osborn whose work sits at the intersection of mental health conditions and the Christian faith. He will focus on:

- Mental Health 101 and the prevalence of mental health conditions.
- How our faith can inform our care of those living with mental health conditions.
- Caring for our congregations, our communities, and our clergy.

There will also be a time to honor special SNE women and a service project for CWS. **Registration closes on April 17.** [Learn more and register.](#)



Combating Antisemitism in the East Bay and Beyond

Thursday, May 2, from 6:30 – 8 pm at **Barrington Public Library**, 281 County Rd, Barrington.

All are invited to this public event, organized by Temple Habonim, to learn about antisemitism, its history and current manifestations, recent experiences of your neighbors, and how to be supportive allies of East Bay's Jewish population. The event will begin with a presentation about antisemitism, delivered by guests from the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. The program continues with a moderated discussion and Q&A session. The panel will feature institutional and individual leaders, both allies and Jewish. Panelists include Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman (Temple Habonim), Colonel Michael E. Correia (Barrington Chief of Police), a School Committee member from the Bristol Warren Regional School District, a Barrington High School student, and others.

There is no cost to attend, but **advance registration is required**. To register, use the form at this address: www.cutt.ly/CAEBB.



Memorial Service for Janet Morrison

A Memorial Service for long-time church member Janet Morrison who passed away in December, will be held on **Saturday, May 4 at 10 am** in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Janet's family, including her daughter, church member Ann Doran, look forward to welcoming all who would like to join them in remembering and celebrating Janet's life.



Worth repeating!

Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest!

The UCC is conducting a Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest.

UCC children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color about the world and the environment in which they want to live. What are their hopes for the world? What is it that they value and want to have protected? What is it that adults should remember and take to heart when they vote this year?

Art submissions will be accepted through **April 16**. An online award ceremony for finalists will be held on May 4, and the winning art will be featured on "Climate Hope Voter Pledge Cards" that church members throughout the UCC will collect during the summer and fall before Election Day.

Learn more and register at: <https://www.ucc.org/vote-for-climate-hope-2024-art-contest/>

Registrants will receive:

- A printable "Vote for Climate Hope" [art template](#).
- A link to a video promoting the art contest.



ART CONTEST

- Regular updates and resources about the “Vote for Climate Hope” campaign. Questions? Email the Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt berndtb@ucc.org or Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org

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 schools use 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, May 13. 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, April 16 at 10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls. [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, May 7** 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 isn't included here for security reasons. It was in the eBridge emailed 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.



There's an [April 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 April food donations is **Sunday, April 21**. The **packing of the bags** will take place on **Wednesday, April 24** 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.



Their next meeting is on **Thursday, April 18** and they'll begin a new book *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Copies of the book are available to borrow (courtesy of Barrington Public Library's 'Book Club in a Bag' program) and can be picked up from the church office. Please be sure to sign for the #copy that you borrow. For more information 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.*



Youth Group is taking a break for several weeks and won't meet again until **Monday, Apr 29**. All youth grades 5 - 8 are welcome to attend when they resume. 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](#)

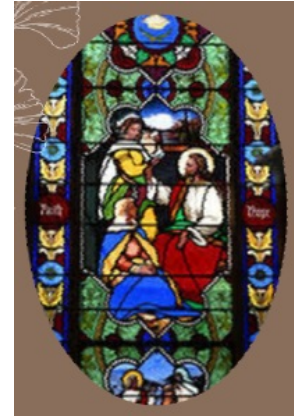
Community News

1877 Black Gospel Window Conversation

Sunday, April 14 from 2 - 3:30 pm
at **Bristol Art Museum**, 10 Wardwell St, Bristol RI 02809.

The earliest known representation of Christ and Gospel Women as people of color in an American public space was uncovered at the former St. Mark's, Warren, RI, in 2022. Created in 1877, the 12.5 ft x 5 ft stained glass window depicts Christ in conversation with Mary, Martha, and Samaritan Woman. Adding complexity, the window commemorates Ruth Bourne DeWolf and Hannah Bourne Gibbs, two white sisters who were born into Bristol's slave-trading economy and who married two of Bristol's most infamous slave captains. The window raises a multitude of questions about women, race, and representation in nineteenth-century Rhode Island. Hadley Arnold, owner of the former St. Mark's Church, and Catherine Zipf, PhD, Director of Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, will share research findings to date, the collaborative research path ahead, and opportunities to contribute to the inquiry.

Attendance is limited. For more information and to secure your tickets, please visit www.bristolartmuseum.org/lectures--events.



Documentary and Discussion

Swim Team (2016) 2 showings
Sun, Apr 14 @ 1 pm and **Wed, Apr 17 @ 6:30 pm**
Salem Family Auditorium, **Barrington Public Library**

"Parents of a boy on the autism spectrum form a competitive swim team, recruiting diverse teens on the spectrum and training them with high expectations and zero pity." Free and open to all.

More information and register for [4/14 showing](#), for [4/17 showing](#)

Sponsored by the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee of Barrington.



Quatro de Mayo Benefit Folk Concert & BarBQ

Saturday, May 4 from 2 - 6 pm Bristol Maritime Center, 127 Thames St. Bristol RI 02809

The 2nd Wind Foundation www.2ndwindfoundation.org a 501-C-3 non-profit and non-sectarian charitable foundation is sponsoring this event and proceeds go to assist youth and seniors with disabilities. The foundation uses several boats to bring the New England coastal environment, its harbors, shoreline, wildlife, fish and birds, and rich coastal resources to the lives of the mobility impaired public impacted by neurological disorders, young or elderly of all genders, races and ethnicities.

Please consider attending the event including peace songs by David Perolman, of Barrington and folk ballads by Ash and Eric L'Esperance of Worcester. Great raffle prizes will be offered by the merchants and restaurateurs of Bristol, food and beverage will be catered by local businesses. Tickets: Presold at BMC box office onsite \$50 adults, \$25 student with college ID, Under 10 with parent free.

Miscellaneous

Online Giving

It's easy to make a donation online! Simply go to the donation page on our

website at www.bccucc.org/donation/ and click on 'Donate Now' under the Tithe.ly option. Be sure to click on the drop-down box in Tithe.ly to choose where you'd like your donation to go - options include Deacons Fund, Memorial Gift, Pledge, Gift etc. Thank you for your financial support of BCCUCC.



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 "Earth Day". You can [read it here](#).



News from the Conference

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, UCC 5th Annual Meeting

Registration is now open!
Learn more and register at this link:

[Annual Meeting Registration Now Open! - Southern New England Conference of the UCC \(sneucc.org\)](#)



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

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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