



May 23, 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, May 26 Pentecost (observed)

Strengthen the Church offering

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only

Mon, May 27 Memorial Day *Office Closed*

10 am - 4 pm Outside use of Fellowship Hall

Tues, May 28

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, May 29

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, May 30

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

Noon: Women of Faith Lunch, Library

7 - 9 pm 'Engaging Democracy with Congressman Gabe Amo', Fellowship Hall

Fri, May 31

6:30 pm Tot's Graduation, Outside

Sat, Jun 1

3 - 6 pm Outside use of Fellowship Hall

Sun, Jun 2

9 am - 12:15 pm OWL Class, Library

10 am Worship Service with Communion, Class on the Grass

Mon, Jun 3

2 pm Solar Team meeting #1, Library

6 - 7 pm Youth Group meets, Fellowship Hall and outside

Tues, Jun 4

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

2 pm Solar Team meeting #2, Library

6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others group, Library and via Zoom

Wed, Jun 5

7 - 8 am Wellness Walk along Bike Path, meet at Shaw's parking lot by noticeboard

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

Thurs, Jun 6

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
11:15 am - 1 pm Rhode Island Ministers Association (RIMA) meeting, Library

Fri June 7 - Sun, Jun 9

Church lit up in orange and wear orange in support of Gun Control

Sun, June 9 Baccalaureate Sunday

10 am Worship Service with recognition of high school graduates, Class on the Grass
Immediately After Worship: Church's **Annual 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](#).



This Sunday, May 26

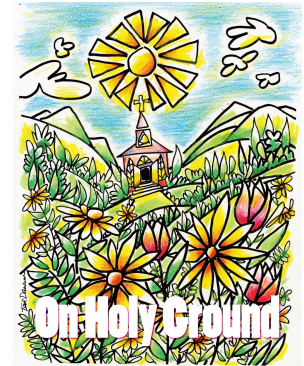
We're celebrating Pentecost - a week late!

We invite you to join us for worship **this Sunday, May 26** as we celebrate Pentecost. In the liturgical (church) calendar Pentecost was actually last Sunday, May 19, but our focus was on Jubilation Sunday and our church school children – so we're going to observe it this Sunday instead. In addition to the liturgical color being red (which is why the altar backdrop is red and the clergy stoles are red) congregations are often invited to **wear red** on Pentecost. So if you have anything red, why not wear it to church this Sunday! But whatever color you wear, you will be most welcome to join us for worship as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost. For more about Pentecost, be sure to read Dale's latest blog at <https://bccucc.org/the-neglected-stepchild/>



Strengthen the Church Offering

This offering will be taken this Sunday and it reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. The theme is 'On Holy Ground' and you can learn more by watching this ['Strengthen the Church' You Tube video](#), at the www.ucc.org/stc website, and also from the bulletin inserts on May 19 & 26 which can be [read at this link](#) along with additional material.



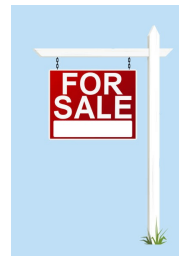
To make a donation, checks may be made out to 'BCCUCC' with 'Strengthen the Church' in the memo line and can be either put in the offering plate or mailed to the church office at 461 County Rd, Barrington RI 02806. Online donations may be made from our church website at www.bccucc.org/donation/ Click on the Tithe.ly 'Donate Now' link and choose 'Strengthen the Church' in the dropdown menu. Thank you.

Updates from the Governing Board

A lot has happened since a new set of by-laws was approved and a new slate of officers and ministry coordinators was elected at the January 28, 2024 Congregational Meeting. The five-member Governing Board (GB) has been meeting regularly since February. Below are the highlights:

Parsonage Sale

After careful consideration of the Parsonage Task Force recommendation to sell the currently unoccupied parsonage at 4 Nathaniel Road in Barrington, the Governing Board (GB) unanimously voted to bring a motion before the Congregation to sell this property. Our by-laws require that any significant transaction be voted upon at two separate Congregational meetings. The sale of the parsonage was **approved** by a congregational vote at meetings on April 28, 2024 and May 12, 2024. The GB has designated a sub-group to initiate the process of putting the parsonage up for sale. The proceeds of the sale will be invested in the endowment for the purpose of supporting the Associate Pastor's compensation package.



Congregation Policy

The Governing Board has completed a draft of a Congregation Policy. This policy includes elements such as the BCC Affirmation of Welcome and Covenant. These were previously included in BCC By-laws. The Governance Ministry Task Force determined that these and other elements should be included in a separate Congregation Policy that will supplement the By-laws. Since this is your policy, the GB is presenting our draft to the Congregation for your comments. **Please review the attached draft.** We request that you send your input to Governing Board Chair Laura Ward (lnakshian@gmail.com). The Congregation will have an opportunity to vote on this new policy at our Annual Meeting (see below).

Annual Meeting

Our Church's Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 9** directly after the worship service. This year's meeting will be different than our usual format in that there will be no vote for a new slate of officers. This is because that vote occurred at the aforementioned meeting in January. We will resume voting for officers and ministry coordinators at our 2025 Annual Meeting. However, we will be voting on the proposed Congregation Policy (see above), as well as a correction to the 2024 by-laws. A quorum will be needed so all church members are encouraged to make every effort to attend the Annual Meeting. **Childcare** will be provided. The warrant with the agenda is below.



Warrant

**Warrant for the 2024 ANNUAL MEETING of
Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island
Sunday, June 9, 2024**



The annual meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, Barrington RI, is hereby called to take place on **Sunday, June 9, 2024** in the sanctuary immediately following the regular 10 a.m. worship service. The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To receive the 2024 Annual Report.
- ARTICLE III: To approve the minutes of the Congregational Meetings held over the past year.
- ARTICLE IV: To correct a mistake in the 2024 By-Laws.*

ARTICLE V: To review and vote on the Congregation Policy. **
ARTICLE VI: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
ARTICLE VII: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Greg Voigt, Clerk

* Article 111.C.3.a.ii of the 2024 Church By-laws reads: "The personnel and role of the Deacons are defined in the Ministry Policy." This needs to be corrected to read: "The personnel and role of the Deacons are defined in the Deacons Policy."

** See 'Congregation Policy' article earlier for more information and to read the draft.

New in this eBridge

Barrington Interfaith Partners sponsors public event being held at BCCUCC

Engaging Democracy with Congressman Gabe Amo will be Barrington Interfaith Partner's Spring Forum to be held on **Thursday, May 30 at 7 pm** in the Fellowship Hall of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC. The public is invited to attend this free event and the building is fully accessible.

Congressman Amo will deliver brief remarks about his work representing Rhode Island's First Congressional District, and then take questions from attendees. Refreshments and conversation will follow the speaking program.



Congressman Amo is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. He is a member of 32 congressional caucuses, including the Black Caucus, the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combatting Antisemitism, the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, and the Bipartisan Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder Task Force.

Barrington Interfaith Partners has members from eight different houses of worship, and has been presenting public forums on issues of racial and social justice since 2016.

Class on the Grass

Our regular church school programs have now ended but on **Sundays June 2, 9 & 16** 'Class on the Grass' will be offered during 'church school time'. This is an all-ages group that will meet on the playground (or inside if bad weather) with a craft and snacks. We look forward to the children joining us for Class on the Grass the first three weeks in June.



Youth Group extends an invitation to all rising 5th Graders

If you are going to be a fifth grader next year, you are invited to attend Youth Group on Mondays from 6 – 7 pm on **June 3 & 10**. We will be meeting on the Terrace for campfire, hot dogs, and s'mores. Youth Group is for students in grades 5 – 9. Our post-confirmation high school students often attend as mentors. Parents are also welcome to stay. Youth Group takes a summer break and resumes in September. For more information or questions contact Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x104.



Softball anyone?

BCCUCC participates in the Barrington Houses of Worship Co-Ed Softball League each summer and is in need of more players. Any interested men

aged 30+ or women aged 16+ who would enjoy playing for our church's team are invited to contact Tom Kiley at Tom@kileyandco.com or 508-243-8287. All playing abilities are welcome! Games are usually played Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays starting late June beginning at 6 pm at Bicknell Field, located at the end of Walnut Road off Lincoln. It's fun and new players are always most welcome.



Wellness Walking

Please join Rev. Racquel Ray and others for the Wednesday morning Wellness Walks. We meet at **7 am** at the Shaw's parking lot near the noticeboard beside the bike path. We walk along the East Bay Bike Path for about an hour. Join us for conversation, green space, and wellness! **Wednesday Mornings** from **June 5 - August 21**, weather permitting. All are welcome to join as you are available.



Wear Orange in support of Gun Control

This year the **10th National Gun Violence Awareness Day**, also known as **Wear Orange Day**, is **Friday, June 7** and the weekend of **June 8 & 9** is **Wear Orange Weekend** which features virtual and in-person events across the nation. BCCUCC will once again be lighting up the front of the church in orange and encourages everyone to wear orange. Learn more at <https://wearorange.org/> and <https://everytownsupportfund.org/how-to-participate-in-wearorange/>

Gun Violence Awareness Day was founded to honor survivors and victims of gun violence. It originally began on June 2, 2015, on what would have been the 18th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton. [Pendleton was shot and killed](#) on a playground in Chicago on January 29, 2013, just a week after she had marched in President Obama's second inauguration parade.

Why Do People Wear **Orange**? Not long after Pendleton was killed, her friends began to wear orange as a tribute and commemoration of her life, as safety orange is the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

We **WEAR ORANGE** to honor Hadiya, and all of the other people who are wounded or killed due to gun violence.



Reminders for Graduates!

Baccalaureate Sunday - honoring our high school graduates!

Are you, or is someone in your family, a graduating high school senior? We will be hosting our annual **Baccalaureate Service** on **Sunday, June 9** and look forward to honoring all our high school graduates! To accomplish that, there are three things you need to do:

1. RSVPs are past due, but if you missed the deadline but would like to participate, you must contact the church office at office@bccucc.org **by May 27**.
2. [Download a copy of the questions](#) for the graduate introductions (copies also available from the rack outside the church office).
3. Return the completed questions to Dale at dale@bccucc.org **no later than June 4**.

If you have any questions, please talk with Dale. And Congratulations!



Kathleen Lynne Fodor Scholarship - application forms available

Two scholarships will be awarded this year to graduating high school seniors going on to further education, or students already in

college. Those who have been confirmed and are members of this church are eligible to apply. **Application deadline is Sunday, June 2** and the scholarship will be awarded on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 9 (see above). [Download an application form](#). The form can also be downloaded from the Church Resources page (under the 'About' tab) on our website www.bccucc.org or a copy can be picked up from outside the church office.



We thank the family and friends of Kate Fodor for their support of this scholarship fund created in her memory.

Graduate information requested for newsletter

We like to recognize those in our church family who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school etc, by publishing the names and graduation information in our newsletter. If you or a family member is graduating this spring, please send the information** to the church office at office@bccucc.org **by this Sunday, May 26** for inclusion in the eBridge on 6-6-24.

**Information needed is name of graduate, high school or college from which they're graduating, what college or further education they will be attending, or what degree they are getting, and any future plans if appropriate. Thank you.

Jubilation Sunday, 2024

Sunday, May 19 was Jubilation Sunday when we marked the end of our Church School program year and celebrated our children in a special worship service. The theme was 'Friendship' and the children told a version of **Farfallina and Marcel** in which Farfallina was a caterpillar whose best friend, Marcel was a cygnet. They did everything together until one day, everything started to change - Farfallina turned into a butterfly and Marcel into a swan. The story showed that even as life takes different turns, friendships endure.



Below are some photos from the service. If you have any photos you're willing to share of either the service or Sundaes Sunday in Fellowship Hall afterwards, please send them to the office at office@bccucc.org as we'd like to put some on the church website www.bccucc.org. Thanks.





Worth repeating

Coffee Hour Sign Ups - volunteers needed

There's a sign-up sheet in the kitchen for Coffee Hour volunteers. Please sign up for a Sunday between now and September as we plan ahead for the summer. To be on the Coffee Hour team or learn more about what's involved, please email Rev. Racquel Ray at racquel@bccucc.org or call her at (401) 246-0111 x104.



Youth Group Campfires

It's getting warmer and lighter during Youth Group. We could use some more volunteers to provide **ingredients for s'mores** – including sticks, marshmallows, chocolate, and graham

crackers. Contact Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org if you can help. Thanks.



Worship service to remain at 10 o'clock year round

In the late fall, the decision was made by the deacons and clergy to keep the Sunday worship time at **10 a.m. all year**. Now that summer is almost here, we wanted to make sure everyone knew of this change. In addition, for the first time in its history **the sanctuary will have air conditioning** available during the summer, making the space much more comfortable for worship on hot days!



Delegates to SNEUCC Annual Meeting needed

Our church can send 3 delegates to the SNEUCC Annual Meeting on June 21-22 (see below). If you are interested in being a voting delegate for SNEUCC, please contact Dale at dale@bccucc.org.

Please note that the meeting can be attended **either in person or via Zoom**, and all voting takes place electronically. The annual meeting is on Saturday, June 22 but there are also several [pre-events](#) happening on Friday, June 21. More information below.

Southern New England Conference, UCC 5th Annual Meeting

The 5th Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC will focus on growing the church. The keynote speaker for the event will be the Rev. Dr. Courtney Stange-Tregear, the Chief Relationship Officer at the Cornerstone Fund of the UCC, who plans to talk about "God Math," and to share inspiring stories of churches that have grown their ministries - and more greatly impacted their communities - by working smarter, not harder. [Read more](#)

Registration is open! The meeting can be attended either in person or via Zoom. Learn more and register at this link: www.sneucc.org/2024AM. Visitors are welcome in addition to clergy and delegates.



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, June 10. 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, June 18 at 10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *House of Doors* by Twan Eng Tan. [Book review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at



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, June 4** 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 isn't included here for security reasons. It is 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 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 May's collection.

A June SignUpGenius will soon be created 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. Please note that this will be the final collection for this school year.



The **deadline** for June food donations is **Sunday, June 9**. The **packing of the bags** will take place on **Wednesday, June 12** 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 - lunch

Their next meeting will be the final one of this program year and they'll meet on **Thursday, May 30** at the earlier time of **Noon** in the library for a lunch. If you haven't yet RSVP'd to Jane about the lunch, please do so a.s.a.p. The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. They usually 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. They'll resume their regular meetings in the fall. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net



Youth Group

Youth group has only a few meetings left this program year. See article earlier in this newsletter for more information.



Learn to Row Day!

Have you ever driven over the bridges from Barrington to Warren and seen rowers out on the river and wondered “How can I join them?” Here’s your chance to find out – for free!

We will be celebrating **National Learn to Row Day** on **Saturday, June 1, 2024**, from **9 am - Noon** at the **Warren RI Town Beach**. Come join us for a morning of rowing adventures. No experience is required. Lifejackets supplied.

For further information contact Rock Singewald at rock9@mindspring.com. You could also contact church member [Kathy Sullivan](#) or Office Administrator [Christine Wallis](#) who regularly go out rowing on the river!

This event is sponsored by the [Warren River Company](#) in collaboration with the Warren Chapter of the [Traditional Small Craft Association \(TSCA\)](#) and [East Bay Rowing](#).



LEARN TO ROW
DAY!

Bristol County Chorus Concert

The Bristol County Chorus, under the direction of Nicholas Rocha, will be presenting their annual spring concert entitled **YESTERDAY** which will include music inspired by American pop music of the 60’s. Featuring music by The Beatles, this fun retrospective will also include music by other popular artists of the 60’s such as Joni Mitchell, Simon & Garfunkel, and Mama Cass. Offering two performances this year, join us either **Saturday June 1, 7 PM**, at Holy Angels Church, 341 Maple Ave, Barrington, RI,

or **Sunday June 2, 3 PM**, at the First Congregational Church, 300 High Street, Bristol, RI.

Tickets are \$20.00 in advance, and \$25.00 at the door. Advance tickets are available locally at the George Hail Library in Warren, Paper Packaging and Panache in Bristol, Holy Angels Church 245-7743, and online at <https://yesterdaybcc.brownpapertickets.com>. Be sure to follow us and check the group’s Facebook page for additional information - www.Facebook.com/bristolcountychorus.



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 Dale and titled

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.

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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