



May 4, 2023

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

*Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Closed on Federal and State Holidays or where otherwise noted*

For those unable to attend worship in person, our Sunday service is livestreamed and can be watched on [our Facebook page](#) or on [our YouTube channel](#) - either live or viewed later.

Only once the service is over, can it be watched on [our website](#).

The Sunday worship bulletin is also posted to [our website](#) to make it easier to follow the service when watching online.

Sun, May 7 UCC Sunday and New Member Sunday

8:45 am FFAYM (Faith Formation & Youth Ministry) meeting, Library
10 am Worship Service with Communion and Reception of New Members (in person and online), Church School
11:20 am Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Room 6
11:30 am - 1 pm Confirmation Class, Room 9

Mon, May 8

5 - 6:30 pm BIP (Barrington Interfaith Partners) meeting
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Room 9 & Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Buildings and Grounds Team meeting, Vestry
7 pm GMTF (Governance Ministry Task Force) meeting, Library

Tues, May 9

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
7 pm Church Council meeting

Wed, May 10

10 am Wednesday Prayer Service, Sanctuary
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, May 11

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

Sun, May 14 Mothers Day

10 am Worship Service (in person and online), Church School
11:20 am Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Room 6

Mon, May 15

10 - 11 am Bereavement Group, Library
11 am Lay Visitation meeting, Room 6
6 - 7 pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall and Room 9

Tue, May 16

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

Wed, May 17

10 am Wednesday Prayer Service, Sanctuary
Noon Deadline for eBridge
7 pm Old Testament Bible Study with Dale, Library
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

Thurs, May 18

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Thrive Tribe Cafe
1:30 - 3 pm Women of Faith Reading Group meet, Library
7 pm Mission and Justice Team meeting, via Zoom

Sun, May 21 Jubilation Sunday

9:30 am Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
10 am All Ages Worship Service with Sing & Celebrate Choir (in person and online)
After Worship: Hot Dog Picnic, Fellowship Hall and Terrace
After Worship: Church School Registration for next year, Fellowship Hall

For the complete church calendar visit <http://bccucc.view-events.com>
Send calendar information to office@bccucc.org

Special Sundays in May

New Member Sunday

This Sunday, May 7 is New Member Sunday and ten members of our congregation will officially join our church during the service. The service will also include communion. We hope that you can join us as we welcome our newest official members.



Jubilation Sunday

Please join us on **Sunday, May 21** as we celebrate the end of our Church School year. Ben Flynn (church member and 2022 high school graduate) will be coming to tell us about his recent experiences volunteering at orphanages in Ghana & Tanzania. In addition the Sing & Celebrate choir will be singing, and we will be recognizing our fantastic Church School teachers. After the service the party will continue on the terrace as our senior minister and his sidekick man the grills for our hot dog picnic. It will be a morning chock full of fun. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



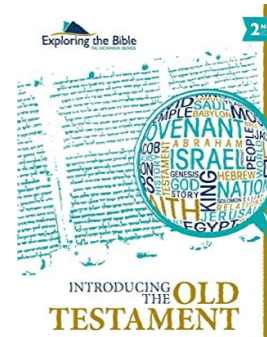
Church School Registration: After the service and on your way to the cookout, you will have the opportunity to register your kiddos for Church School next year. Please stop by the table in Fellowship Hall.

Miscellaneous May notices

All are invited to a new Bible Study starting on May 17

Rev. Dale will be leading a six session Bible Study called ***Exploring the Bible: Introducing the Old Testament***. This is a sequel study to a class Dale held just before the pandemic hit in 2020 and is published by the Massachusetts Bible Society. There is no need to have participated in the first study to jump in now. This study will meet **every other Wednesday** at 7pm, **beginning May 17**. This will be an interactive exploration of major themes in the Old Testament, what the writings meant to it's contemporary audience, and what impact it can have for us today.

RSVP to Dale if you would like to participate or if you have any questions (dale@bccucc.org or 401 246-0111 x 103). This'll be fun and informative!



Find ways for BCCUCC to support the LGBTQ+ community.

Join our new Open and Affirming Team today!

You may recall from [Dale's blog](#) several weeks ago that he is going to be starting up a new ONA Team that will be looking for creative and meaningful ways that we can live out our ONA stance more fully. Are you interested in joining with him and others in this? If so, please reach out to Dale (dale@bccucc.org) and let him know. Once we have a handful of people, we'll find a date and time to get together and begin working!



Food donations deadline for Backpack Program

Thank you to the families that helped fill our 25 monthly bags of food in April that went to students at the DelSesto Middle School in Providence.

Our next collection deadline is **Sunday, May 21**. 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 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**. Please use [this sign-up genius link](#) to mark which items you plan to bring or call the church office to sign up (401) 246-0111. Please be sure to indicate the number of items you are signing up to donate.



Packing of the bags will take place on **Wednesday, May 24** at 4pm 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

Big changes coming to BCCUCC?

A message from Dale

For those of you who have been around a while, you know that now is usually the time

that the church is gathering names and nominations to fill our ministry teams and leadership for the coming year. However, that is not happening this year. Over the past year a Governance/Ministry Task Force (GMTF) has been working diligently to prepare a major overhaul of our church structure. This is a continuation of the Vision 2020 work that began prior to the pandemic. The GMTF is moving closer to sharing a model for ministry that we hope will greatly reduce the number of elected positions, increase participation from our members, and streamline our bureaucracy while creating a flexible ministry model that honors our “congregational” heritage.

That is a mouthful, but what it means is that, barring a few exceptions, we will not be electing new officers or ministry teams at this year’s annual meeting on June 11. Instead, we anticipate a presentation by the GMTF outlining their ministry model for the future. They will refine that model through the summer, garnering feedback from the congregation, and hope to present a formal structure revision at a congregational meeting early in the fall. If that model is adopted, we will put together a new slate of officers and elected positions to be voted on in January of 2024. In the meantime, the Church Council has asked all church leaders and team members to stay on for an additional 6 months until the new elections are held.

This notice is just a brief acknowledgement of the situation, and we look forward to sharing a lot more information with you in the months ahead. If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to Tom Strolla (Moderator) ostrolla@cox.net or to Dale Azevedo (Sr. Minister) dale@bccucc.org.

Attention Graduates

Baccalaureate Sunday - honoring our high school graduates!

Are you, or do you have in your family, a graduating high school senior? If so this announcement is for you! We will be recognizing our high school seniors at our worship service on **Baccalaureate Sunday, June 11** and we invite our high school seniors to attend. If you are a high school senior, there are three things you need to do:



1. RSVP to the church office **by Sunday, May 28** (office@bccucc.org or 246-0111);
 2. [Download a copy of the questions](#) for the graduate introductions and return to Dale **by Sunday, June 4**; (copies also available from the office)
 3. Don't worry about wearing a gown to church - regular church clothes will suffice.
- If you have any questions, contact Dale (dale@bccucc.org). And Congratulations!

Kathleen Lynne Fodor Scholarship - application forms available

New this year, there will be just one scholarship awarded worth \$1000 and it will be awarded to either a graduating high school senior going on to further education or to a student already in college. Those who have been confirmed and are members of this church are eligible to apply. **Application deadline is Sunday, June 4** and the scholarship will be awarded on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 11 (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 the narthex table. We thank the family and friends of Kate Fodor for their support of this scholarship fund created in her memory.

Graduation 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 **Sunday, May 28**. 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.

BCCUCC's Annual Report & Meeting

Annual Reports needed

The clergy, church officers and team leaders are asked to submit their individual reports to the church office **by Tuesday, May 30** for inclusion in our church's 2023 Annual Report. The reports should cover the period June 2022 – May 2023. Please email your report to Christine at office@bccucc.org or mail to the office. Thank you. [Previous year's Annual Reports](#)



Save the date for our Church's Annual Meeting

Our church's Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on **Sunday, June 11** immediately following the worship service. All church members are encouraged to attend so we have a quorum. The warrant with the agenda will be included in a later eBridge.



SNEUCC Annual Meeting...and more

SNEUCC Annual Meeting - all are invited

Registration is open for the 4th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference, to be held **Saturday, June 17** at the DCU Center in Worcester. An online option is also available. Visitors are invited to attend in addition to delegates.

The meeting will include messages by UCC General Minister and President Nominee Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson and SNEUCC Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin; engaging worship; and two sets of breakout sessions, one on "Mapping Your Church's Path Forward" and one on "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." There will also be a Children's Program, a Marketplace and some pre-meeting events.

[Watch a video invitation to attend](#) by Rev. Chris Davies. Details and register at sneucc.org/2023AM



Delegates to SNEUCC Needed

Our church can send 3 delegates to the SNEUCC Annual Meeting on **June 17** (see article above). If you are interested in being a voting delegate for SNEUCC, please contact Dale (dale@bccucc.org) or Tom Strolla (ostrolla@cox.net) for confirmation.

SNEUCC Sending Youth to General Synod

The Southern New England Conference is accepting applications from youth who want to take part in

Youth @ Synod, the national gathering for young leaders ages 14 to 18 who want to connect with teens from around the country while experiencing the vibrant diversity of the wider church. The event is part of the United Church of Christ General Synod, taking place in Indianapolis, IN, **June 30 to July 4**. Significant scholarship support is available. [Learn more](#)



Rev. Dale Azevedo will be attending Synod as a delegate. If any youth is interested and has questions, please contact Dale at dale@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 103.

Follow up to our April 30th service

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the special donation at our April 30th worship service that celebrated Negro Spirituals. \$828 was donated from the congregation and our Mission and Justice Team will be giving another \$250. The money will be sent to [Community MusicWorks](#) to support musicians and artists of color in recognition that the creators of Negro Spirituals were never compensated for their work.



If you missed the April 30th 'Celebration of Negro Spirituals' service you can [watch it here](#). Donations can still be made at the Tithe.ly link on our website's [donations page](#) choosing 'Royalties for Negro Spirituals' in the drop down box. Thank you.

Historical Perspectives from our Church Historian

The Sunday, April 30th 'Celebration of Negro Spirituals' as well as BCC's participation in the townwide Barrington Interfaith Partners new initiative called 'Royalties for Spirituals' are important steps towards recognizing the connection our Church is making between justice and worship.



Much has been written about the history of RI's deep involvement in the enslavement of persons from Africa. Historical markers in Newport, Providence, Bristol and in Warren now sketch the details of what became known as the 'triangle trade'. Increasingly, awareness has grown of how the entire East Bay profited from both the building and supplying of ocean-faring vessels which traded in commodities and humans, and the early textile manufacturing in Warren which relied on the cotton raised by slaves in the South. With a great need for labor and money to be made, it would seem likely that many in our area were quite familiar with, or even involved in this most profitable of businesses.

[continued](#)

June happenings

Additional players needed for our church's co-ed softball team

BCCUCC participates in the Barrington Houses of Worship Softball League each summer and is in need of some additional players. Any interested men aged 30+ or women aged 16+ who would enjoy playing for BCCUCC are invited to contact Steve Peck at steve@peckmarketing.net or (401) 454-9725. 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.

East Bay Kids Clothes Swap

The next East Bay Kids Clothes Swap will be on **Saturday, June 10** from 9 am - Noon in Fellowship Hall. It's a place to trade in clean (non-stained) clothes and shoes and get clothes the next size up! Ages newborn to 12 years old. Give what you can, take what you need! Toys can also be swapped. The swaps are now held seasonally so you don't want to miss it! \$5 donation at the door but no one turned away. More info <https://www.facebook.com/EastBayKidsClothesSwap> To volunteer with the swap, email RIkidswap@gmail.com



Ongoing groups / 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. They next meet on **Monday, May 15**. For more information contact either of the facilitators, Betsy Brenner at betsybrenner3@gmail.com or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at aubreyfolk@aol.com or (401) 392-1909.



Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, May 16** at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *To The Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf [Book Review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Choir rehearsals

Why not join the BCCUCC church choir? No audition is needed and all voice parts are welcome. Rehearsals are **Wednesday evenings** at 7:30 pm for an hour or so, in the vestry (the room below the sanctuary). To learn more speak with our music director Matthew Marion on a Sunday or contact him at mmarion1811@gmail.com. You're also very welcome to speak with any of our current choir members - or just come along to a Wednesday evening rehearsal. They'd love to have you join them!



Coffee Chats with Racquel

Rev. Racquel invites you to join her at Thrive Tribe Café, 60 Maple Avenue, Barrington from **8:30 am – 9:30 am** on **Thursday Mornings** for Coffee Chats. She will be there every Thursday morning unless otherwise noted, and hopes to see you any time you can make it! All are welcome.



Knitting for Others Group meets in person and online

These knitters get together on the first Tuesday to knit items to be

donated - prayer shawls, baby hats, etc. They next meet on **Tuesday, June 6** from **6:30 – 9 pm** and participants have the option to either meet in person in the church library or meet over zoom. Feel free to stop by the library or join the call at any time and stay as long as you like. They use the church's video conferencing equipment which makes it easier to have conversations between those participating online and those in the room. 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 information is not included here for security reasons. It was in the email sent to the congregation.*



Weekly Prayer Service

All are invited to join Rev. Racquel on **Wednesday mornings** at **10 am** in the sanctuary for a brief prayer service to pray for the congregation and clergy, the community, family and friends, and themselves.



Women of Faith Reading Group

The group meets 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 welcome women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. Upcoming meetings are on **Thursday, May 18** For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net



Youth Group

The Youth Group is led by Rev. Racquel and welcomes all in Grades 5 - 8. They gather most weeks throughout the year on **Mondays** from **6 - 7 pm** for fun and fellowship, a simple dinner (usually pizza) and a closing prayer service.

Youth Group next meets on **Mondays, May 8, 15 & 22**. For more information, including the complete schedule see page 12 of the [2022-23 Guide to Faith Formation](#) or contact Rev. Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x104. Note: Youth participating in programs at church must be [registered](#).



Rev. Racquel at

Worth repeating....

The Pastors' Blog

The latest blog was written by Dale and titled *How I Spent My Birthday: a Synod Preview*. If you missed it earlier, you can [read it here](#).



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



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

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, located in Sharon, CT. Use the following links to find out more about what they offer:

www.silverlakeect.org

[Summer camp at Silver Lake](#)

[View the summer programs](#)

[Retreats/Weekend Programs page](#)



Community Notices

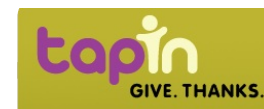
31st Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

This will take place on **Saturday, May 13** and is when letter carriers all across the US collect non-perishable food donations from homes and deliver them to a local food bank. To participate please place a box or bag of non-perishable and UNEXPIRED food next to your mailbox before your mail carrier arrives on the morning of Sat, May 13. The postal carriers will pick up and deliver the food to your local food pantry where it will be stored and delivered to families and children in need in the East Bay communities. In Barrington, all donations go to TAPIN. Several years ago, this food drive collected 5,156 pounds of food through the generous help of the Barrington community! This Food Drive helps TAPIN to stock its food pantry, which serves hundreds of East Bay residents. In Warren, all donations go to St Mary of the Bay Food Pantry.



Help needed with food drive donations!

TAPIN is looking for volunteers on **Saturday, May 13** to weigh, date-check, sort and shelve donated items (see above). To volunteer for a 2 hour session (11 am – 1 pm, 1 – 3 pm, 3-5 pm) please email summer.sheeley@tapinri.org, or stop by TAPIN or call them at (401) 247-1444. Thanks.



Sunday mornings at BCCUCC

Services livestreamed to Facebook, website and YouTube

All are invited to join us for our **multi-platform worship service at 10 am**. Masks are optional but we do ask that if you're feeling unwell or have symptoms, that you please stay home and watch online. We continue to run large HEPA air filters in the sanctuary and also have HEPA air filters in most spaces in our Education building.



For those unable to join us in person, the services are livestreamed so they can be watched online - either live or later - at

- the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc

- or [our church's YouTube Channel](#)

Please note that the service can no longer be watched LIVE on our website. However a recording of the service can be watched once the service is over when it gets posted to the Livestream page of the church website <https://bccucc.org/live-stream-2/>

A link to the [Sunday bulletin](#) can be found on our livestream page.

Please leave the back center pew empty

By leaving the back center pew empty, it allows access from one side of the sanctuary to the other when needed - before during and after worship. This avoids worship leaders and others having to either walk across in front of the altar or having to leave the sanctuary at the back and traversing the stairs before coming back in to the sanctuary on the other side!



Nursery Care

The **Nursery** is open every Sunday morning to provide loving care for infants and children aged 0 - 3 years old. Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off their child/children in the nursery located in the Education building before going to the worship service.



The **Nursery Nook**, located directly below the sanctuary, is another option for parents with wiggly children of any age to retreat to and still hear the service on the loud speaker down there.

We love the sound of children in worship so parents are welcome to keep their infants and children with them in the sanctuary if they wish. For those who would prefer to worship without distraction, we provide these other options.

Church School classes

Children from PreK through grade 8 attend the first part of worship service in the sanctuary with their families, then after the children's message (or communion on the first Sunday) they leave to go to their Church School classes in the Education building. Their teachers will accompany them. More information about the different church school classes are on pages 9 & 10 of the [2022-2023 Guide to Faith Formation](#). On All Ages Worship Sundays, the children remain in the sanctuary for the entire time and the service is more child friendly.



From the church office

Deadlines for Announcements and eBridge

The deadline for receiving information for inclusion in the eBridge and the Sunday Announcements is **Noon on the Wednesday prior to publication.**

Deadline for next eBridge is **Wed, May 17**. Send information to Christine at office@bccucc.org.



Do you need a Name Tag?

We encourage the congregation to wear nametags to help get to know each other. 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.

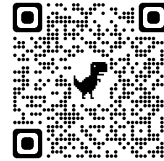
Online donations to the church through our website

Our church website (www.bccucc.org) is capable of accepting online donations. [Watch a brief video](#) (30 secs) on how to do this, or read the following instructions: There's a red 'DONATE' button on the right side of the black menu bar near the top of each page of the website. Clicking on it will take you to the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page. In the middle is a link to Tithe.ly through which you can make a donation to the church either using a credit card or directly from your bank. (No need to set up an account). You are also able to designate where you would like your donation to go (pledge, gift, memorial gift, Deacons' Fund, etc).



Questions? Contact Pat Stoddard, Financial Secretary at pat@bccucc.org or (401) 246-0111 x 102.

[Visit the 'Giving to BCCUCC' page.](#) OR you can use this QR code to take you directly to our giving page.



Contact us

Dale dale@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 103 *Senior Minister*

Racquel racquel@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 104 *Associate Minister for Congregational Life*

Christine office@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 101 (or just stay on the line) *Office Administrator*

Pat pat@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 102 *Financial Secretary*

Andrea andrea@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 107 *Faith Formation Director*

Matthew 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 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 !