



July 11, 2024

The newsletter of
Barrington Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

Calendar

*Summer Office Hours: Open Mon - Thurs, 9:30 am - 1 pm. Closed Fridays
Closed on Federal and State Holidays & where otherwise noted*

Sat, Jul 13

Homeward Bound: a fundraiser to benefit refugees, BCCUCC:
5 pm Doors open and Silent Auction
6 pm Atwater-Donnelly Concert
7 pm Open Mic

Sun, Jul 14

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only

Tues, Jul 16

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Jul 17

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

Thurs, Jul 18

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Plant City
6 pm Softball game vs St. John's, Bicknell Field

Sat, Jul 20

3 - 7 pm Outside use of Fellowship Hall

Sun, Jul 21

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only
5 pm Vegetarian Potluck, Fellowship Hall and Terrace

Tues, Jul 23

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office
10:30 am Book Group, Library
6 pm Softball game vs St. James, Bicknell Field

Wed, July 24

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

Thurs, Jul 25

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Plant City

Sun, Jul 28

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only
After Worship: Dedication of a new Historic Plaque

Tues, Jul 30

9:30 am - 12:30 pm Calendar Planning Meeting, Library

Wed, Jul 31

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

Thurs, Aug 1

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Plant City

6 pm Softball game vs St. Luke's, Bicknell Field

Sun, Aug 4

10 am Worship Service with Communion, Nursery Care only

Tues, Aug 6

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Noon - *Deadline for eBridge*

Wed, Aug 7

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

5 - 7 pm Governing Board meeting, Terrace

Thurs, Aug 8

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Plant City

6 pm Softball game vs Team Unaffiliated, Bicknell Field

Sun, Aug 11

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only

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](#).



Summer at BCCUCC

See later in this newsletter for articles about ongoing summer activities including Coffee Hour, Book Group, Softball, Wednesday Walks, and more!



Homeward Bound: a fundraiser to benefit refugees

Atwater-Donnelly Concert ~ Silent Auction ~ Open Mic

The Asylum Ministry Team at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC has organized a **fundraising concert, silent auction and open mic** at the church on

Saturday, July 13.

Doors open at 5 pm for the silent auction, and the **concert starts at 6 pm.**

Open mic will be **7- 8 pm** after the concert.

This indoor/outdoor event will take place rain or shine.

Please join us and use the [link to the event's Facebook page](#) to invite your friends!



The concert will feature the acclaimed folk duo [Atwater-Donnelly](#) of Warren, followed by a **community open mic** – bring your instrument!

The **silent auction** includes locally made art, craft, floral design, and donations from local businesses.

Interested in donating a piece of your art or other gifts to our silent auction? Contact organizer Gabrielle Sclafani at (401) 451-8902 or gs2882@utsnyc.edu.

Proceeds will benefit our Asylum Ministry Team's efforts to reunite an at-risk refugee family which has been offered permanent residency in Canada through the support of a sister Unitarian church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. [More info](#). Any additional funds raised will benefit Dorcas International Institute of RI and local refugees.

Tickets are on a sliding scale \$15-\$30, no one turned away for lack of funds. Kids under 12, free will donation.

To reserve advance tickets, please click "Donate Now" under the icon for "Tithely" on our [church website's donation page](#) and select "Atwater-Donnelly Concert" from the drop-down menu. **Please put the number of tickets you are reserving** in the "Note/memo" field.



Food & refreshments available courtesy of local businesses including [India](#) restaurant.

Donations: Can't make the event but would like to make a monetary donation? Use the [church website's donation page](#) link and select "Asylum Ministry" in the Tithely drop down menu. Thank you.

Thank you to Atwater-Donnelly, all of the local businesses, and everyone who is supporting this event. Your generosity is appreciated.

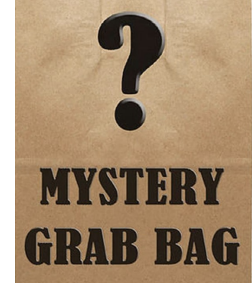
New in this eBridge

Grab-bag Summer Sermon Series

If you read [Dale's latest blog](#), you'll know that he and Racquel are doing a Grab-bag Summer Sermon Series. This means that when you come to church this summer, you are invited to fill out a yellow slip (included in each summer bulletin) with a suggested sermon topic, place it in a bag with all the others during Announcements time, and then Racquel or Dale will draw

from the bag and preach on whatever theme they draw out. They do this new each week, so if you bring a suggestion one week and it doesn't get chosen, you will need to bring it again in future weeks as there is no sense in them preaching on your topic on a week you aren't there!

Our ministers are open to being challenged to share a sermon on just about any topic, but there may be issues or topics they feel will be too volatile or divisive to preach off the cuff. In these cases, they may wish to hold onto that topic and address it another day when they've had more time to prepare themselves and you for the message.



On some Sundays this summer, the hymns are also chosen this way, so you can request your favorite hymn - and if it's one of the 3 hymns chosen from the grab-bag, it'll get sung that morning.

Pick up your God's Eye!

Earlier this year the congregation made God's Eyes during a worship service, which were then displayed in the church and later in Fellowship Hall. They've now been taken down and are available for pick up by their makers. If you made a God's Eye and would like to take yours home, they're on a table at the back of Fellowship Hall.



Planning for the 2024-2025 church year

The clergy, staff and others are busy making plans for the 2024-2025 program year at BCCUCC. Ministry Coordinators, as well as team leaders who have regularly scheduled meetings or activities have already been contacted asking for their information for the church calendar.



If you haven't been contacted, but have something that you'd like to be included in the upcoming church year, please send the information to the church office at office@bccucc.org or call (401) 246-0111 **as soon as possible**. The clergy, staff and ministry coordinators are getting together for the annual Calendar Planning Meeting on Tuesday, July 30, so any ideas or requests that you may have should be submitted before then, if possible.

Coffee Chat resumes at a new location

The Thursday Morning Coffee Chat will now meet at the newly opened **Plant City** in the Barrington Shopping Center (188 County Road). Please join Rev. Racquel and others on **Thursday mornings 8:30 - 9:30 am** for conversation and companionship. Contact Rev. Racquel with any questions racquel@bccucc.org



Vegetarian Potluck Picnic Dinner

All are invited to a Vegetarian Potluck Picnic Dinner, sponsored by the Pot-Luck Team, on **Sunday, July 21** at **5 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a vegetarian or vegan dish to share. Feel free to bring a copy of your recipe to share with church members and friends. The Team will provide lemonade, iced tea, and pitchers of water. Tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall and on the terrace (weather permitting). Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Rev. Racquel racquel@bccucc.org or Trinkie Brueckner trinki49@gmail.com 245-9954.

Vegetarian Potluck



Early Riser Walk at Osamequin Nature Preserve

Join church member Cindy Elder, Executive Director of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust, for an Early Riser Walk at Osamequin Nature Preserve on **Thursday, July 25** from **7 - 8 am**. For information and to register please visit [Osamequin Nature Preserve](https://www.osamequin.org/)



A new Historic Plaque for our Church made possible from a generous donation

Many people in town are familiar with the iconic ‘White Church’, and many are aware that our stately front doors have a beautiful oval plaque from the Barrington Preservation Society which indicates the year our historic building was constructed, 1806. Many are also familiar with the 300th celebration of our Town that was held in 2017, which included much information about our church and congregation. Few might be aware however, that our church has managed to keep some of our earliest documents. For example, the original incorporation of our church, written on parchment paper with the governor’s seal in the year 1797 when John Adams was president, is framed and hangs on the wall of the narthex. Over the years, most of our other historical documents have been kept by the town in the lower level of the town library. A few years ago however, a decision was made to bring them back to their rightful home: the Barrington Congregational Church. About this time, a most generous donation was made to the church by the family of the late Dr. Richard Browning, and a new cabinet for document storage was built and placed in the library of Fellowship Hall. Additional shelving and several filing cabinets were added, and specialized archival envelopes and boxes were purchased. With the remainder of these funds, it was decided that not unlike our historic sister Congregational Churches in Rumford and Bristol, our church should have an enduring brass plaque to highlight the history of our congregation and its major importance to the very beginnings of our town of Barrington.



The plaque will be hung on the outside wall of the church to the left of the vestry door where it can be easily seen and read. On **Sunday, July 28** the **plaque will be dedicated following the 10 am worship service**, and members of the Browning family will be joining us that day.

Altar flower donors needed for August 4

There are two openings on **Sunday, August 4** for donor(s) to pay for flowers on the altar. The arrangements are delivered each week from a local florist (The Greenery in Warren), each vase costs \$30, and donors can choose to pay for one or both vases. The flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event (anniversary, birthday etc) and your dedication will be included in the bulletin and also read during the service.



If you’re interested in giving flowers **on August 4**, please contact Barbara Lee of our Chancel Team, at barbaralee957@hotmail.com or (401) 835-8160. Thank you.

New leader needed for LFRI Backpack Program

After many years of leading BCCUCC's participation in the Loaves and Fishes RI ministry, Jay and Phyllis Buckley are stepping down. We thank them both for their many years of faithful service to this ministry.



Prior to the pandemic, our church would fill the LFRI truck with food, plus some toiletries and clothing, and drive to areas in Providence to give them out to the homeless. Post pandemic, we have had the Loaves and Fishes Backpack Program, where once a month during the school year, we collect food and fill 25 bags to be given to children at DelSesto Middle School in Providence, whose families are experiencing food insecurity. Jay and Phyllis have been tireless in their efforts, and it's now time for them to take a well-earned break, and for someone else to take up the leadership role so that



this mission and outreach can continue.

If you're interested or would like to learn more about what's involved, please contact Jay Buckley at (401) 578-6533 or pbuckley6@cox.net. He looks forward to hearing from you.

Ushers needed for the Fall

Ushering on Sunday morning is a great way to meet church members, participate in Sunday worship, and enables you to give some of your time to the church. We have need for up to four new ushers starting in fall 2024. If you can give only one Sunday a month to join the ushering team, we would love to have you. If you would like to join starting in the fall or have any questions about what an usher does, please email Tom Strolla at ostrolla@cox.net.



A thank you letter to the congregation.....

Dear Barrington Congregational Church, UCC,

June 11th, 2024 marked one year since I was ordained by this community in my role as the chaplain for Hope Health's Pediatric Palliative Care Program. During that year, I have accompanied more than fifty families of medically complex children and the staff who care for them as they work to ensure the best possible quality of life for our patients. I am deeply grateful to be able to say that this work brings me as much joy today as it did a year ago when I had only recently stepped into this role, and I am a bit sheepish to admit that I still have not finished saying "thank you" to every community member who has made it possible for me to live out this call as an ordained clergy person. I have saved the most important and most difficult of these notes for last.

I have been a part of this community since I was first baptized into it in 1992, and I have been inspired and shaped by its clergy and membership my entire life. I first declared my hope to become a minister of word and sacrament under the direction of Interim Rev. Sue Remick in 2015.



When Dale answered our call, he enthusiastically offered his support of my candidacy and spent countless hours accompanying me through the ordination process and helping me to cultivate the skills necessary to succeed in ministry (a lifelong process!). The Rhode Island Association approved of my call as a healthcare chaplain in fall 2022, and Dale, Racquel, Christine, Pat, Matthew, Erik Ela, and countless others in this church guided me in the process of planning and carrying out an ordination service for which I agonized over every detail.

It was a joyous event, and I feel a sense of awe every day that I have the privilege of doing the work that I do and to know so many people within and beyond our walls who are dedicated to relieving suffering, to creating something a little closer to God's kin-dom here on earth.

Thank you, BCCUCC, for who you are, all you do, and for empowering me to serve our community near and far. It is a humbling experience to worship among you.

With great warmth and gratitude,
Gabrielle Sclafani, Member

Editor's note: Rev. Gabrielle worships with us from the pews on Sunday mornings. She also sometimes assists with the service - on June 30th she preached the sermon, and she'll be back in the pulpit to preach on July 28th.

Memorial Services at BCCUCC

Jim McCartney

It is with sadness that we report the death of long time church member Jim McCartney who died aged 92 on June 27, 2024 surrounded by his children. Jim and his late wife Lois joined Barrington Congregational Church in 1987. He moved from Rhode Island to Westbrook, Maine in 2022 to be closer to his family, but kept in touch with what was happening at BCCUCC from reading the ministers blogs, weekly announcements and bulletin.



A memorial service and celebration of Jim's life will be held at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC on **Monday, August 26 at 11:30 am.**

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association [at this link](#)

[Read Jim's obituary](#)

Nancy Martin

As previously reported, former church member, Nancy Martin, passed away aged 91 on April 26, 2024 in Holland, Michigan.



A memorial service and celebration of Nancy's life will be held at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC on **Saturday, August 17 at 10 am** followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

[Read Nancy's obituary](#)

Summer at BCCUCC

Summer Worship is at 10 a.m.

Summer Worship at **10 a.m.** continues through Labor Day. For those with young families, there will be a children's message every week (except on Communion Sundays – the first Sunday of the month).

Don't forget that **the sanctuary now has air conditioning**, making the space much more comfortable for worship on hot days! We look forward to you joining us for worship this summer when you're in town.



Nursery Care

Nursery Care continues through the summer as long as it is needed. There's also a Nursery Nook downstairs where a parent can retreat with their child and still hear the service on the loudspeaker down there. We enjoy the sound of children in worship and provide these options for parents who prefer to worship without distraction.



Summer Coffee Hour - but without coffee!

Coffee Hour and fellowship continues through the summer as we gather in Fellowship Hall after the service ends, to share **cold** beverages. The church provides iced tea, lemonade, and apple juice. If folks would like to bake and/or bring snacks to share that would be great too. Sign-up sheets are on the beverage tables in Fellowship Hall to volunteer to set-up by putting out cups and drinks, to bring snacks, and to help clean-up.

Any questions, ideas or suggestions please contact Racquel at racquel@bccucc.org.



Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, July 23** (note: the 4th Tuesday) at **10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea. [Book review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Church softball update

The BCCUCC co-ed softball team this year, under the leadership of Tom Kiley, are having fun, playing well together and to date have had one win and two losses - but there were some close games! Our team's upcoming games in the Barrington Houses of Worship Co-Ed Softball League are:

Thursday, July 18 vs St. John's

Tuesday, July 23 vs St. James

Thursday, August 1 vs St. Luke's

Thurs, August 8 vs. Team Unaffiliated

All games begin at **6 pm** and are played at **Bicknell Field**, located at the end of Walnut Road off Lincoln Avenue. Spectators are encouraged to come cheer them on!

[2024 Softball Schedule](#) Printed copies are available from the table in the narthex

Any interested men aged 30+ or women aged 16+ who are interested in playing should contact Tom Kiley at Tom@kileyandco.com or 508-243-8287.



Wellness Wednesday Walking

All are invited to join Rev. Racquel and others for the Wednesday morning Wellness Walk. We meet at **7 am** at the Shaw's parking lot by the bike path (near the noticeboard) and walk along the East Bay Bike Path for about an hour. Join us as you are able for conversation, green space, and wellness on **Wednesday mornings thru August 21** - weather permitting.



Staff away & Summer Office Hours

Dale is out of the office through July 14.

Andrea is out of the office July 18 - 25.

Christine is out of the office July 22 - 29.

Racquel is out of the office August 4 - 10.



The church office will be on **Summer hours** from **through Labor Day:**

Monday - Thursday OPEN 9:30 am - 1 pm; CLOSED Fridays.

Thursday publications this summer

Due to clergy and staff vacations plus less happening over the summer, there will be some weeks when you don't received a Thursday email from the church with either the eBridge newsletter or a 'From the River's Edge' blog from Dale or Racquel. However we will continue to keep you posted in a timely manner with everything that's happening here at church.

Also please note that the deadline for the Announcements and eBridge is **Tuesdays** during the summer. The **next eBridge deadline is Tues, Aug 6**. Send information for inclusion to Christine at office@bccucc.org



Summer hiatus!

The following are taking a break over the summer:

Adult Choir

Bereavement Group

Church School
Knitting for Others Group
Lay Visitation
Loaves and Fishes Backpack program
Women of Faith Reading Group
Youth Group
Enjoy the summer and see you in September!



Miscellaneous

The Pastors' Blog

Two blogs have been published since the last eBridge. If you missed either of them, the links are below:

[Grab-bag Summer Sermon Series](#) written by Dale.

[Go Outside](#) written by Racquel.



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.



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.



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 Summer Office Hours: Open Monday –Thursday, 9:30 am – 1 pm.

Closed on Fridays plus 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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