



August 27, 2020

The bi-weekly newsletter of
Barrington Congregational
Church, United Church of
Christ.

There's a lot in this newsletter - make sure you don't miss any of it!

Some platforms will only show some of this email and then provide a small link to click at the cut-off point to see the remainder. So you will know that you've seen everything there is to see, the words THE END! in green letters are at the very end.

Calendar

Church Office is CLOSED until further notice.

There are still no in-person worship services at church until further notice and both buildings remain closed, so please do not enter.

Fri, Aug 28

Linda on call for pastoral emergencies

Sat, Aug 29

10 am Chancel Team meet

Sun, Aug 30 New Member Sunday

9:30 am Live-streamed Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)

11 am Small, outdoor in-person coffee hour at member's home

Tues, Sept 1

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom

5 pm Stewardship Team meet via Zoom

7 pm Knitting for Others group meet via Zoom

Wed, Sept 2

7 pm Associate Minister Search Committee meet via Zoom

Thurs, Sept 3

2:30 pm Moving Forward Team meet via Zoom

Sun, Sept 6

9:30 am Live-streamed Worship Service with Communion (No in-person worship).

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

Mon, Sept 7 Labor Day

Tues, Sept 8

11 am Staff meeting via Zoom
2 pm Worship Technology Team meet via Zoom
7 pm Church Council meet via Zoom

Wed, Sept 9

Noon Deadline for the next eBridge

Sat, Sept 12

9:30 am Prayers in the Parking Lot
BCCUCC at Soup Kitchen CANCELLED

Sun, Sept 13 Open Doors Sunday

10 am Live-streamed All Ages Worship Service (No in-person worship). Watch at www.facebook.com/bccucc or on our website [at this link](#)
11:15 am Meeting for Church School Volunteers via Zoom
After Worship Zoom Coffee Hour starts up again

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

Change in clergy day off

Beginning Monday, August 31st, Rev. Linda Hartley will be taking Mondays as her weekly day off. Rev. Dale Azevedo will continue to take Fridays off. This means that there is no longer a need to list a minister on call each Friday in the calendar.

**Sundays, August 30th & September 6th**

Our **online only worship service** begins at **9:30 AM** through September 6th, and can be found both on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc (click on the 'posts' or 'videos' link to find it) and on our website www.bccucc.org/live-stream-page/. If you miss it live, a recording can be watched later at the same links.



During the summer all of the information needed for worship will be shown on the screen during the service, and there is no bulletin.

Altar Flower dedications**On Sunday, August 30th:**

One arrangement is given by Heather Williamson and Libardo DeLaTorre in celebration of their wedding anniversary. The other arrangement is paid for from the Chancel Fund.

**On Sunday, September 6th:**

One arrangement is given by Kate Bonneau in gratitude and love for all things. *There isn't yet a donor for the second arrangement - see below if you'd like to donate them.*

Birthdays being celebrated

The week of August 30th: Vanessa Kiley, Michael Zeleznik, Reid

Wemple, Amy Barkat, Dick McWhirter, Leslie Peck, Kara Humm, and Audrey Rogers



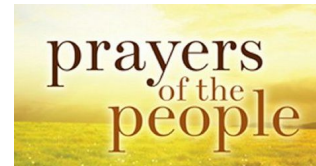
The week of September 6th: Lisa Allen, Erik Ela, Lory Snady-McCoy, Bob Zeleznik, Rebecca Bendheim, Ben Flynn, Maggie Slane, Mary Lou Slicker, Seth Azevedo, Tom Strolla, Jennifer Geary, and Connor Helm.

Deacons

Amy Barkat (star deacon), Steve Fodor, Joe Judge, Pat Stoddard, Carol Strakosch, Jane Tonn, Nancy Arena, and Lory McCoy. In a pastoral emergency if you cannot reach either of our ministers, please reach out to one of our deacons.

Prayer requests

Deadline for submitting prayers to be included in worship is **8 am Sunday morning**. You can leave a message on the church's answering machine (401) 246-0111 or email Dale dale@bccucc.org or Linda linda@bccucc.org. Please be sure that the person you are lifting up is comfortable with them reading your prayer to the whole community, and consider using first names only.



New Member Sunday, August 30th.

We welcome Fred Rocco, Jeff Stumpff, and Chris and Joanne Waite who will officially become members of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC during worship on Sunday, August 30th. Although we're unable to give them the traditional welcome during worship then celebrate with cake at coffee hour, we're really glad that they've joined.

Communion on Sunday, September 6th

We will be celebrating virtual communion again on **Sunday, September 6th** – as is our tradition on the first Sunday of every month. We invite everyone who wishes to participate to have elements prepared ahead of time for you to join in this celebration. If you have bread and juice (or even wine) feel free to use it. However, we invite you to participate with whatever elements you have on hand. Christ is present and will not be denied if you do not have the "proper" elements. God understands and joins us however invited, if invited with an open and loving heart.



Building Relationships during the Pandemic

You are invited to a small, outdoor in-person coffee hour

As a part of our 'Building Relationships during the Pandemic' program, we are trying something new. We will be hosting a small, in-person "Coffee hour" this **Sunday, August 30th**, at **11 am** after the online church service. Members of the congregation have offered to host these outdoor gatherings with a maximum of fifteen people at each home. Participants are required to wear masks and to bring their own beverage and chair if they wish. To take advantage of this opportunity to connect with church friends, **please sign up** at the [SignUpGenius](https://signupgenius.com) or contact Helen Schall (401 245-4724 or helenschall@hotmail.com) **before noon on Saturday, August 29th**. The hosts will let you know later on Saturday where your assigned coffee hour will be held. *Laura*



Introducing 'Parking Lot Prayers'

Do you miss seeing everyone? Looking for a chance to gather with your church friends in a SAFE way? On Saturday, September 12th, we are inviting the whole church family to gather for a short time of sharing and prayers in the church parking lot. Although the whole church community is invited, we can **only have 40 cars in attendance**. This gathering will follow RI safety guidelines. **Preregistration is required** through **SignUpGenius** or by contacting the church office (401) 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org.



Cars will park every other space. People can exit their cars but must wear a mask and remain in their parking space. We hope to provide a way for those who want to be able to share some of your prayers or thoughts with those gathered. **The prayers will begin at 9:30 am** and we expect to wrap up by 10. We will be recording this event and also hope to have it livestreamed for those who cannot attend. Sign up and join us! If you wish to share a short prayer of gratitude, hope, or need; or you'd like to volunteer to help out, please let us know that when you sign up. Questions? Contact Abby Ashley at abbyashley01@gmail.com or 439-1700. *Information on how to use SignUpGenius follows.*

How to use SignUpGenius - it's easy!

You don't need to have an account in order to sign up for something using SignUpGenius. If you click on the links (in red) included in the two opportunities above, each one will take you directly to the SignUp sheet for that event. There you'll find more Information and if you scroll down, you'll see a **Sign Up** button next to each option that's available. Click the button for whichever option(s) you want to sign up for (if there are options). Once you've done that you need to click on the **'Submit and Sign Up'** button at the very bottom of the page. This will take you to the participant page where you get to fill in your name etc. Once that's all completed, click on the **'Sign Up Now'** button. You will then see confirmation that you've been signed up, and if you click on the 'back to sign up' link you'll see your name has been added.



If you ever don't have the link to a specific sign up sheet, you can search for any of the church's active sign ups from the Sign Up Genius webpage www.signupgenius.com by clicking on 'Search for a SignUp' then enter the email address office@bccucc.org.

Building Connections

Following Dale's blog of 8/6/20 a Zoom meeting on 'Building Connections' was held on 8/12/20 of people interested in exploring ways that the congregation can remain connected during this unusual time. Deacon Nancy Arena attended the meeting and wrote an excellent summary which Dale published as a Guest Blog titled **"Follow up: How can we remain connected?"** If you haven't read it already, [here is the link](#).



The two opportunities for in-person gatherings listed earlier (Small Outdoor Coffee Hour, and Parking Lot Prayers) are being offered as ways for members of the congregation to safely gather and connect. We invite you to sign up and participate as you feel able.

We need your help to build and maintain connections

The August 12th meeting (see above) produced a [list of ideas of ways to build](#)

connections. Some of the ideas had champions who have taken on the role to transform the ideas into action.

Now it's your turn. The meeting participants want to gather more input from the congregation.

- Are you willing to take ownership of one of the unassigned ideas?
- Do you have other creative ideas not expressed on the list?
- What are your talents?
- Do you have an interest in reaching a specific demographic in our congregation, e.g. families with young children or elderly residents in congregant care?
- Do you feel a call to serve other members of the congregation or the broader community?
- How can you help?
- What would you lead?

Building connections requires all of our collective talents and resources. If you answered yes to any of the questions listed above, please contact the church office at (401) 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org to express your interest and commitment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Keeping ourselves and others safe

Making Handwashing a Time of Prayer

Washing our hands for 20 seconds is one of the ways to reduce the spread of the Covid virus. How long is 20 seconds? That is sometimes hard to track. However, there is a way that combines adequate handwashing and praising God. The Doxology that we sing during worship, (it starts with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow....") takes approximately 20 seconds to sing. By choosing to sing the Doxology each time we wash our hands we mentally shift our focus from the challenge of living within a pandemic to thoughts of gratitude and the blessings God has bestowed. Focusing on these positives in the midst of our challenges improves our health and wellbeing. Thanks be to God.

For further explanation and a demonstration go to <https://youtu.be/V18iZK14A74>



BCCUCC
GUIDELINES
FOR
OUTDOOR
GATHERINGS

The [BCCUCC Guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings](#) is a one page document that all are asked to read and observe. Thanks to Peggy Matteson for all the research and work she did creating the document.



Seen outside a church in England!

Can you help?

The office needs help!

Do you understand computer networks? How good are you with troubleshooting servers or managing web clients? Your BCCUCC office could use some technical support. Over the years we have increased the technology in our office substantially. Unfortunately, technology doesn't always play nice and often needs to be updated, upgraded, or tweaked. This can take a significant amount of time for our office staff who would otherwise be doing the work they were hired for. This is especially true when they spend hours on hold with paid tech support trying to learn how to fix something. It would be great to have a layperson from our church who is technologically savvy enough to be our "go to" person with computer, network, and website issues. Are you that person? You would need to have time to help us, be able to respond relatively quickly (within a day or so at most), and possibly be willing to come into the office and make some hands on changes. If you are able to help, please reach out to Dale at dale@bccucc.org. Thanks!!

Altar flowers donors needed

Donors are needed to pay for one arrangement of altar flowers on **September 6th** and one on **September 27th**. Each arrangement costs \$30 and the flowers can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event. If interested, please contact Bethia Rosner at bethiarosner@gmail.com or (401) 383-5538. Thank you.



Painted rocks

More painted rocks are needed to go around the base of the Peace Pole which will soon be 'planted' on the church property. Rocks painted with sayings, pictures, slogans etc can be left in the container on the patio behind Fellowship Hall. The photo shows some that we've received so far - thank you for them. If you have any questions or need ideas, please contact Andrea at andrea@bccucc.org or 246-0111 ext 107. *Editor's note: If you type 'painted rocks' into Google Images you'll find lots of pictures of painted rocks to give you some ideas. Or [click on this link](#) for some helpful advice.*



Upgrading? Donate your old iPad!

The church would be glad to repurpose your old iPad for someone who'd like to be more active in our church-online community but may not have the equipment they need. Contact the office office@bccucc.org to arrange a donation. Thank you.



Church groups invite you to join them

Knitting for Others group

No longer able to get together in person, this group of knitters has been meeting virtually each month. Their next get-together is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 1st** at 7 pm via Zoom. All knitters and crocheters are invited and new faces are very welcome – so do join in! *For security reasons the zoom information isn't included in the version of the newsletter that is posted on our website and Facebook page. It was included in the email sent to the congregation.*

For more information on the group, contact Nancy Arena at 401 246-0212 or nancy.arena@outlook.com



Book Group

The Book Group will meet virtually via Zoom on **Tuesday, September 15th at 9:30 am**. They will discuss *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83¼ years old* by Hendrik Groen: "Delightful and moving, Groen's novel shares a full year of the eponymous octogenarian's journal entries, detailing his day-to-day observations, humorous inner monologues, and overall zest for life within a nursing home in Amsterdam." For more information about the group, contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 245-4724. All are welcome to participate. *For security reasons the zoom information isn't included in the version of the newsletter that is posted on our website and Facebook page. It was included in the email sent to the congregation.*



From your Mission and Justice Team

Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voices

From Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ:
"The UCC Our Faith, Our Vote campaign creed that every vote counts is supported by a new national study which shows that poor and low-income voters across the country have the power to impact the outcome of the United States presidential election and 16 U.S. Senate races. [Read about the new study and how people of faith can do their part to ensure that people on the margins are heard.](#)"



Make sure you get to vote!

If you missed the deadline to apply for a mail ballot for the Sept. 8 primary, you can vote in-person at your [city or town hall](#), Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm up until Sept. 8th. (**Remember there are no primaries in Barrington and Warren**)

Voting Options

According to the Board of Elections it is NOT too soon to apply for mail ballots for the November election. With all the uncertainty about an expected crush of mail ballot applications and postal service delays, get your mail ballot applications for November soon. Mail ballot applications and mail ballots take time, don't wait until the last minute.

Apply for a Mail Ballot: <https://elections.ri.gov/voting/applymail.php>

Upcoming Elections/Deadlines: <https://elections.ri.gov/elections/upcoming/index.php>

From the Board of Elections: There is still time to signup to work at the polls for both Sept. 8 and Nov. 3! Complete our online form today and we will forward your application to the local Board of Canvassers.

Visit <https://riboe.wufoo.com/forms/mqw1zuy0uvvug4/>

**REGISTER
TO VOTE
BY MAIL**

Worth sharing.....

From the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty: Small acts of activism will transform the world. Here are three simple action items you can take right now:

- fill out the census: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>
- sign this @RaisingRI petition to improve the RI Works benefit: <https://bit.ly/2YmrzbV>
- spread awareness and resources to your faith communities on how to combat poverty in RI. Check out their [Facebook page](#)

One of the issues presented in the Mission and Justice 'Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voices' survey in February was Climate Change. Here is a recent article from **Eco RI** on how Rhode Island is doing: <https://www.ecori.org/climate-change/2020/8/24/rhode-island-leads-way-in-climate-warming>.

Looking ahead

Open Doors Sunday is September 13th

The All Ages Worship Service will be online only (no in person worship) and will mark the return to the **10 am** start time.



Zoom Coffee Hour to resume September 13th

Erik Ela will resume hosting the after worship Zoom Coffee Hour beginning **Sunday, September 13th**. Zoom info needed will be included in the next eBridge.



Blood Drive at BCCUCC

Thursday, September 24th from **3 - 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.
Donations by appointment - visit www.ribc.org/drives to book. Sponsor code 1562. (Walk-ins only accepted if safe spacing permits at time of arrival.) *It is safe to donate* (www.ribc.org/safety)



Keep up to date with SNEUCC

What's happening at the Conference level?

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.



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

[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.

Reminders

Building Safety

A reminder that the church buildings remain closed until further notice. If you need to drop something off, or have asked to pick something up, the items can be deposited or retrieved from the white wooden "Church Mailbox" that's located at the top of the stairs by the office entrance, next to the boiler room door. We ask that people not enter the building. Thank you.

Stay connected with each other - and call the ministers if needed

During this time of separation, we are all encouraged to keep in touch with each other. If there's someone in the church you'd like to reach out to - maybe someone living alone - but you don't have their contact information, please call the church office and leave a message (401 246-0111 x 101) or email office@bccucc.org. Christine will then get their contact information to you.

If you're in the hospital, a nursing home or rehab, or you're simply staying home, but would like a visit with a minister, please don't hesitate to call them and they'll be happy to visit with you over the phone. Their numbers are Dale (401) 246-0111 x 103; Linda (401) 246-0111 x 104. Leave a message and they'll get back to you. (Note: Linda will be on vacation from Aug 17-23).



Ways to watch our live-streams

We are doing our live-streams using Zoom and 'Facebook Live' and there are two places to watch it online:

1. On the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/bccucc
2. On the church's webpage www.bccucc.org at the '[BCCUCC live-stream](#)' link from the home page, where the feed will be embedded.



For Facebook live, simply go to www.facebook.com/bccucc to watch. You don't need a Facebook account to see it. If you do have an account, search for the church's Facebook Page which is 'Barrington Congregational Church UCC'. If you 'Like' our page you should then get our news feeds, and also be able to comment on our posts and the live feeds. Once on the church's Facebook page, you will need to click on 'posts' or 'videos' to find the live feed, or watch the recording later.

If you're not able to watch live, you can watch a recording later, on the [live-stream page](#) of our website.

The office is closed but you can still reach us

Until further notice, the church office will remain closed. However you can still be in touch with the ministers and staff. You can either send an email or leave a message on the answering machine at the person's extension. Both emails and voice mail messages will be checked regularly. Our contact information is:



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

Linda linda@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 104

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

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

Andrea andrea@bccucc.org (401) 246-0111 x 107

Connect with us



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THE END !

