



August 8, 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*

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

Mon, Aug 12

5 pm BIP (Barrington Interfaith Partners) meeting, Library and via Zoom

Tues, Aug 13

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Wed, Aug 14

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

Thurs, Aug 15

8:30 - 9:30 am Coffee Chat, Plant City
6 pm Softball game vs Temple Habonim, Bicknell Field

Fri, Aug 16

10 am - Noon Outside use of church library

Sat, Aug 17

10 am Memorial service for Nancy Martin, Sanctuary. Reception following in Fellowship Hall

Sun, Aug 18

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only

Mon, Aug 19

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

Tues, Aug 20

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

Wed, Aug 21

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

Thurs, Aug 22

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

Sun, Aug 25

10 am Worship Service, Nursery Care only

Mon, Aug 26

11:30 am Memorial service for Jim McCartney, Sanctuary

6 pm Softball game vs. St. James, Bicknell Field

Tues, Aug 27

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

Noon *Deadline for eBridge*

Thurs, Aug 29

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

Sun, Sep 1

10 am Worship Service with Communion, 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, Coffee Chats, and more!



Updates plus what's coming soon!

Update on the Sale of the Parsonage

We are pleased to share that the sale of the Parsonage has been successfully completed. After the congregation approved the sale, a member informed us that a family member was interested in purchasing the property. To ensure fairness, we engaged an independent professional to appraise the property, which was valued at \$525,000—exceeding the initially approved amount.

Given that this appraisal was acceptable to the buyer, we proceeded with the sale, which was finalized on August 1. Additionally, by selling the property directly, the church saved on realtor fees, further benefiting our financial position. The Endowment Team is now in the process of investing the funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Tom Colby at tom@colbyhome.com.



Results of fundraising efforts to reunite Khaled with his family

On Saturday, July 13th, BCCUCC hosted Atwater-Donnelly for a concert and silent auction to benefit the family of Khaled, a refugee from Afghanistan who church member Gabrielle Sclafani met while volunteering with the Lutheran Church in Germany in 2019-2020. Khaled is now a permanent resident of Canada, through the sponsorship of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Halifax, and he called upon Gabrielle and BCCUCC this spring for financial assistance in getting his family out of Iran, where they have been living as undocumented immigrants, to Turkey where they will be received by the Canadian embassy and transported to Halifax, Nova Scotia to be reunited with Khaled after eleven years of separation.



The night was marked by a sense of togetherness and joy. Aubrey and Elwood Atwater-Donnelly donated their music, and many church and community members volunteered their time and joined the open mic accompanied by our own Matthew Marion. The terrace set the scene for a beautiful silent auction featuring donations from church members, the larger membership of the Hameho Garden Club, and many generous local businesses. The event raised \$3000 for Khaled's family, which contributes to a total of more than \$12,500 we raised to support them in their journey, and to make a modest contribution to immigrant families in our local RI community.

The latest word from Khaled is that his family will be underway within two weeks after some minor delays. With blessings for a safe journey and a smooth process at the embassy in Turkey, they will reach their new home in Canada in September. Khaled is deeply grateful for the support of this community and looks forward to visiting in person as soon as he is able. May we all think of his family this week as they say goodbye to the country they have called home for the last twenty-two years and begin their next chapter with safety and hope.

Editors note: Kudos to Gabrielle for coming up with the idea and organizing this event at such short notice. Thanks to all who helped her make it happen, attended the event, or otherwise contributed to help reunite Khaled with his family. We look forward to meeting him some day.

Our church has a new Historic Plaque

On Sunday, July 28 following the worship service, a new historic plaque was dedicated that tells of the early history of Barrington Congregational Church. Be sure to check it out when you next come to church - it's located on the south wall of the church to the left of the vestry door. If you're not able to see it in person you can [read the plaque here](#).

The plaque was given in memory of Rick Browning, a member of this church who sadly passed away in 2012. Members of Rick's family were present for the dedication and we thank the Browning family for their donation that made the purchase of the plaque possible.

We also thank our church historian, Dianne Wilkin, for all of her work making the plaque become a reality, as well as her continuing work of sorting out and making sure that our church's historical documents are properly stored. Barrington Congregational Church has a rich history that shouldn't be lost and thanks to Dianne and our previous church historians, we're making sure that doesn't happen.



Save the date for Open Doors Sunday!

On **September 8 - Open Doors Sunday** - we will continue to meet at 10 am as we have all summer, but we will return to our regular worship services which includes a new bulletin each Sunday and music from

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

the choir.

Following the service we will celebrate with **Food, Fellowship and Fun** over in Fellowship Hall and outside on the Terrace - more details in the next eBridge!

Open Doors Sunday kicks off our new program year so we hope you'll mark your calendar and plan to join us. It's also a day that we especially open our doors to visitors and newcomers who are looking to start the school year off by finding a new church, so be sure to invite your neighbors and friends!

Children and Youth at BCCUCC

The next eBridge will be published August 29th and will contain information about Church School, Youth Group, Confirmation and more. There will also be a link to the 2024 - 2025 booklet with information about all of the programs and opportunities available to our children and youth in the upcoming year, plus information about registration. Stay tuned!



Volunteers needed! Can you help?

Volunteers needed for Open Doors Sunday Team

Under the new church structure, responsibility for organizing various church events falls to volunteers who are excited about and willing to make them happen. One such event is Open Doors Sunday which is scheduled for **Sunday, September 8**. It is our first Sunday of regular worship after the summer, it marks the start of our new program year, and it always has a high attendance as people return to church after Labor Day.

Following the Open Doors worship service we've traditionally had a celebration over in Fellowship Hall and outside on the terrace which has sometimes included a cookout (we already have a couple of volunteers to work the grills if that's what's needed!) and/or a bouncy house, outdoor games, ice cream truck etc. What happens after worship this year is up to the Open Doors Team to decide – and it can be something different – but they'll get assistance from staff and others who have been involved in running the Open Doors celebrations under our old structure, and there is money in the budget to cover the costs involved. We already have a couple of volunteers but more are needed.

If you're interested in volunteering for the 2024 Open Doors Team please contact our Welcome Ministry Coordinator, Barbara Lee at (401) 835-8160 or barbaralee957@hotmail.com. **She looks forward to hearing from you a.s.a.p.** as Open Doors Sunday is only a few weeks away!! Thank you.

OPEN DOORS SUNDAY



Volunteers needed to tidy the pew racks

We're looking for some additional volunteers to help straighten up the pew racks and keep them stocked with the pew envelopes, visitor cards, doodle cards etc. All of the materials will be supplied to you by the church office and you're welcome to come in at your own convenience and spend time in the sanctuary as you go around restocking and straightening up the pew racks. With several volunteers, you'll only be asked to do it once every few weeks. If interested, please contact the church office at (401) 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org. 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.



Reminders!

Be sure to read the latest Pastors' blog!

If you missed Dale's latest blog [What is Christian Nationalism and why does it matter?](#), you can read it by clicking on the link.



Editors note: Dale spent a great many hours researching and writing this blog and it's well worth the read. It's both interesting and informative on a subject that concerns many in America today.

Grab-bag Summer Sermon Series continues

If you read [Dale's June 20th 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.

Upcoming Memorial Services at BCCUCC....

We have two memorial services scheduled this month for long-time church members who moved away from Barrington in recent years to live closer to family. Sadly they've now passed away and their services are to be held here at BCCUCC. All are invited to attend their services.

...for Nancy Martin

Nancy passed away aged 91 on April 26, 2024 in Holland, Michigan. The 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](#)



...for Jim McCartney

Jim passed away aged 92 on June 27, 2024 in Westbrook, Maine. The memorial service and celebration of Jim's life will be held at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC on **Monday, August 26 at 11:30 am**.

[Read Jim's obituary](#)



From the Creation Care Team

The Rhode Island Tempestry Project: Contribute to Barrington's Knit Temperature Panels

Knitters of all levels are invited to help create two knitted panels documenting the temperature in Rhode Island in 1984 and 2017 through different colored yarn. All supplies will be provided and a volunteer will be present to assist in the knitting if needed. Upon completion, Barrington's two panels will be entered into The Rhode Island

Collection of the [Tempestry Project](#) and displayed throughout 2025.

The workshops take place in the **Makerspace** at **Barrington Public Library** and upcoming workshop dates and times are:

Fri, Aug 16, 10 am - Noon; **Tues, Aug 27**, 1 - 3 pm; **Tues, Sept 3**, 5 - 6 pm

For more information about the project and later workshop dates and times, click [HERE](#).

All teen & adult knitters are welcome but please be aware that there are only two panels so only two individuals can be working at a time. They recommend you bring a knitting project of your own to work on in the meantime while you wait for your turn.



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 is 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/or 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, August 20 at 10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Kuntslers in Paradise* by Cathleen Schine. [Book review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



Coffee Chat continues

The Thursday Morning Coffee Chat now meets 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



Church softball update

The BCCUCC co-ed softball team this year, under the leadership of Tom Kiley, are having fun and playing well together even though they haven't won as many games as they would like! Our team's upcoming games in the Barrington Houses of Worship Co-Ed Softball League are:

Thursday, August 8 vs. Team Unaffiliated

Thursday, August 15 vs Temple Habonim

Monday, August 19 vs St. John's

Monday, August 26 vs St. James and this is the last of our regular season games. The Playoff games will follow and the schedule for those is tba.

Spectators are encouraged to come cheer on the BCCUCC team!

All regular season games begin at **6 pm** and are played at **Bicknell Field**, located at the end of Walnut Road off Lincoln Avenue.

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



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

Racquel is out of the office thru August 10.

Andrea will be out of the office from August 15 - 30.



The church office is 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 receive 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 27**. 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

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 Tithely option. Be sure to click on the drop-down box in Tithely 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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