



August 29, 2024

The bi-weekly 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*

### **Sun, Sep 1**

10 am Worship Service with Communion, Nursery Care only

### **Mon, Sep 2 Labor Day**

*Office Closed*

*Return to Regular Office Hours: Open Mon - Fri, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.*

### **Tues, Sep 3**

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

6 pm BCCUCC in Softball Playoff game, Veterans Field

6:30 - 9 pm Knitting for Others Group, Library

### **Wed, Sep 4**

7:30 - 9 pm Choir rehearsals begin, Vestry

### **Thurs, Sep 5**

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

### **Fri, Sep 6**

5 pm Potluck and Training for Children and Youth Volunteers, Offsite

### **Sun, Sep 8 OPEN DOORS SUNDAY**

10 am Worship Service with Dedication of Volunteers working with children & youth, Nursery Care only

After Worship: Church School Registration, Fellowship Hall

After Worship: Fellowship, Food & Fun!, Terrace & Fellowship Hall

### **Mon, Sep 9**

10 - 11 am Bereavement Group, Library

5 - 6:30 pm Barrington Interfaith Partners (BIP) meeting, Library

### **Tues, Sep 10**

10 am Staff meeting, Dale's office

### **Wed, Sep 11**

Noon: *Deadline for eBridge*

2-3:30 pm Governing Board meeting, Library

7:30 - 9 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry

### **Thurs, Sep 12**

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

**Sun, Sep 15**

10 am Worship Service, Church School classes begin

For the complete church calendar visit <http://bccucc.view-events.com>

Send calendar information to [office@bccucc.org](mailto: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](#).



### Problems with online worship

Unfortunately we are currently unable to livestream our worship service for which we apologize. The big storm a couple of weeks ago resulted in us losing a number of electrical systems. We're pleased to report that our fire alarms are back online but the internet in the church building is still out. It's taking a little longer to fix than we'd hoped, but it should be back working in time to livestream our Open Doors Sunday service on September 8. A video of the August 25 service can be viewed on Facebook and hopefully a video of the September 1 service will also be posted there.



## Summer is almost over... ...and our fall programs are about to begin

**Sunday, September 1** will be the last of our summer worship services with a grab bag sermon and the congregation chooses the hymns! The service is at 10 am and includes communion.

**The church office** will be closed on **Monday, September 2** for Labor Day. On **Tuesday, September 3** we return to regular office hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.

**Deadlines** return to Wednesdays at Noon - weekly for the Announcements and every other week for the eBridge (the date is listed in the calendar above).

Our worship time continues to be at **10 am** on Sundays and on **Sunday, September 8** we will celebrate **Open Doors Sunday** which marks the start of our new program year (see later).

**Church groups and activities start up again:** Several of our church groups and activities took a break over the summer and will start up again after Labor Day or later this fall. These include the Church Choir, the Knitting Group, Youth Group, the Women of Faith Reading Group, the Bereavement Group, and Lay Visitation (see calendar above or [this link](#) for dates and times, and later in this newsletter for more details.)

**2024-2025 Church Calendar** can be viewed at <http://bccucc.view-events.com> or from the calendar page on our church website <https://bccucc.org/calendar/>. Please notify Christine with information about meetings/events etc. so the calendar can always be kept up to date. Contact her at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org) or 246-0111.



# Open Doors Sunday

## Come one, come all!

Be sure to come back home for Open Doors Sunday on **September 8**. Whether we call it Gathering, Homecoming, or any other Sunday, it's the day we welcome back our families (of all types and sizes) and kick off our new program year!

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!

Open Doors Sunday will begin with an **All Ages Worship Service** at 10 a.m. After the service everyone is invited over to Fellowship Hall and the Terrace for **food, fellowship and fun**. There will be hot dogs, an ice cream truck, and activities for the kids.

So come home and join us for a worship service specially designed for all ages, and reconnect with your church family. We're looking forward to seeing you!



## A few more people needed to help with the celebration.

To volunteer to help with the Open Doors celebration after worship on September 8 (see above), please contact our Welcome Ministry Coordinator, Barbara Lee ([barbaralee957@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaralee957@hotmail.com)) (401) 835-8160 or Rev. Racquel Ray ([racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org)) (401) 246-0111 x 104). Thanks!



## Attention volunteers who work with our children and youth!

Volunteers who work with our children and youth are encouraged to attend Open Doors Sunday on **September 8** as during the service there will be a **Special Dedication of these Volunteers**. We hope you can be there. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please see article later in this newsletter.



# New requests

## Altar flower donors needed in September & October

Our altar flower arrangements are delivered each week from The Greenery in Warren, each vase costs \$30, and donors can choose to pay for one or both vases. They can be given in memory, celebration or honor of a person or special event (anniversary, birthday etc) and the donor's dedication will be included in the bulletin and also read during the service. If you'd like to donate flowers, please contact the Chancel Team member listed for the month:

- **September:** There are openings for one vase on **Sept 8** and one vase on **Sept 15**. Contact Beth Buckley at [elizabethbuckley21@msn.com](mailto:elizabethbuckley21@msn.com) or (401) 247-0324.
- **October:** There are openings every Sunday. Contact Cheryl Muth at [jccbmuth@aol.com](mailto:jccbmuth@aol.com).



## Would you like to be a greeter?

The Sunday Morning Welcome Ministry is offering all church community members (individuals, family or friend groups, and of any age) a joyful opportunity to greet and welcome people on one or more Sundays between now and December 29. Greeters need to arrive at 9:40 before 10:00 worship. If you are interested, please contact Trinki Brueckner - [trinki49@gmail.com](mailto:trinki49@gmail.com), (401) 447-4742, or after a service.



## Children and Youth

### Informational Booklet about Children & Youth Programs at Barrington Congregational Church

[A Guide to Faith Formation for Children and Youth at BCCUCC 2024-2025](#) has been published and we encourage everyone - especially parents - to read about the various programs being offered for children and youth at BCCUCC in the upcoming year. A lot has been planned and we're looking forward to an exciting year!

Please share the information with other families you know with children and youth who may be interested. A link to the information is also on the Church School page of the church website at [www.bccucc.org/children-youth/](http://www.bccucc.org/children-youth/)

Printed copies of the booklet will be available for pick up at church - from the narthex table or from the Registration Table in Fellowship Hall on Open Doors Sunday, September 8.

A Guide to Faith Formation  
for Children and Youth  
at BCCUCC  
2024-2025



### Nursery Care

Nursery Care continues every Sunday for ages 0-3 years. Parents can drop their children off in the **Nursery**, located in the Education Building, on their way into church. There's also a **Nursery Nook** downstairs where a parent can retreat with their child of any age 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.



### Registration required for children and youth

Registration will take place after the 10 am worship service on **Sundays, September 8 & 15**. There will be a table in Fellowship Hall where parents/guardians can fill out the forms. Or save time and download a [2024-2025 registration form](#) to fill out ahead of time.



**Note:** *If your child/children was registered for the 2023-2024 church school year, all you'll have to do is review last year's form, change the grade, make any necessary updates and initial it!* For insurance purposes EACH child and youth from infants through grade 12 is required to have their own form filled out or updated EVERY YEAR in order to participate in church programs including Church School, Youth Group, and Confirmation. Thank you for your attention to this.

### Changes coming to our Church School Structure

This year we have made some adjustments to our Church School to accommodate our changing Church School population:

- PreK – 2nd grade will be in the Godly Play room.
- 3rd – 5th will enjoy the rotation program, Deep Blue.
- 6th – 8th graders (Seekers) will study world religions.

The way Church School happens will remain the same except on some special Sundays. All of



the information you want to find is in this year's [Faith Formation booklet](#) (see earlier article). If there are lingering questions, please reach out to Andrea our Faith Formation Director at [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 x 107.

### Church School classes begin on Sunday, September 15.

Children from PreK through Grade 8 attend the first part of the worship service in the sanctuary with their families, then after the children's message they leave to go to their Church School classes in the Education building. Their teacher will accompany them. On Sundays when there is All Ages Worship, such as September 8, the children remain in the sanctuary for the whole of the family-friendly service.

### Additional volunteers sought for our children and youth programs

We have lots of classes and activities scheduled for our children and youth this year and would love to have some additional volunteers to help out.

If you're interested in volunteering in **Church School**, or have questions, please contact our Faith Formation Director, Andrea Bullard, at [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 107.

For volunteering with **Youth Group**, please contact Rev. Racquel Ray at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 104. They look forward to hearing from you!



### Youth Group

Resumes **Monday, September 23!!** This year, we're including 9th graders and also adding some extras including games, crafts, and some new activities. All kids in **grades 5 - 9** are welcome to join us on **Monday nights** from **6 – 7 pm**. Registration is required for each participant. We're looking forward to Games and Crafts nights, Youth Group Soup, a trip to La Salette, a Quiet Retreat, community service work, and exploring a mission trip. Parents, we'll need some help with Youth Group Soup nights! Please email [racquel@bcc.org](mailto:racquel@bcc.org) to register or learn more.

September & October dates are **Mondays, Sept 23 (Youth Group Kick-Off) & 30, and Oct 7 & 21**. All youth grades 5 - 9 are welcome to attend. *Note: There is no youth group when Barrington Public Schools have a day off and on a few other Mondays.* For the full year's calendar see page 13 of the [Faith Formation Guide](#).

Don't forget that youth participating in any programs at church must be registered. (see earlier article and download a [2024-2025 registration form](#)).



**NEEDED:** It's time to reinflate the basketballs and football. Please email Racquel to help out! [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org)

### Confirmation classes

Confirmation is being offered by Rev. Racquel Ray this 2024-2025 program year and youth in **grades 8 & 9** are invited to participate, along with any older youth who wish to be confirmed. Classes begin **Sunday, September 22** with an **orientation for parents and participants** after worship in the Library from **11:30 am – 1 pm**.\*\* Coffee and Donuts will be provided. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Confirmation program, ask any questions, develop or deepen relationships, and envision our year together. Classes are held monthly and facilitated by Rev. Racquel and the Deacons. Parents will be asked to sign up and rotate bringing snacks each month. For more information about the confirmation program, and the full list of class dates see pages 10 & 11 of the [Faith Formation Guide](#).

\*\* If you plan to attend the orientation, Rev. Racquel asks that you please **RSVP** to her at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) or (401) 246-0111 x 104 so she can plan accordingly. Thank you.



### What's happening with the OWL program?

To ensure that everyone who is eligible is able to participate in all of our programs, we are alternating years between offering Our Whole Lives and Confirmation. We offered the OWL program last year, and next year (2025-2026)

the OWL program will be offered for youth in grades 8 & 9. Questions about OWL? See pages 12 of the [Faith Formation Guide](#) or contact Andrea at [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) or 246- 0111 x 107.

This year (2024-2025), youth in Gds 8 & 9 are invited to participate in Confirmation (see above).



## Repeat requests

### New leader needed for LFRI Backpack Program

After many years Jay and Phyllis Buckley have stepped down from running our Loaves and Fishes program, so we're looking for someone else to take up the leadership role so that this mission and outreach can continue. Post pandemic, we have been running 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. The new school year has begun, so in order to continue this ministry, **we need a new leader a.s.a.p.**

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](mailto:pbuckley6@cox.net) who will be happy to answer all the questions you may have.



### 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](mailto:office@bccucc.org). Thank you.



## Ongoing groups

### Bereavement Group

This support group is open to anyone (not just church members) who has lost a loved one at any time and new members are always welcome. The group meets once a month from **10 - 11 am** in the church library and will meet again

on **Monday, September 9**. For more information contact one of the facilitators, Betsy Brenner at [betsybrenner3@gmail.com](mailto:betsybrenner3@gmail.com) or 245-8031, or Aubrey Atwater at [aubreyfolk@aol.com](mailto:aubreyfolk@aol.com) or (401) 392-1909, or Rev. Racquel Ray at [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) (401) 246 0111 x 104.



### Book Group

The Book Group next meets on **Tuesday, September 17 at 10:30 am** in the church library. They will discuss *Far Field* by Madhuri Vijay. [Book review](#). For more information about the group contact Helen Schall at [helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenschall@hotmail.com) or 401 245-4724. All are welcome.



### Coffee Chat

The Thursday Morning Coffee Chat now meets at **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](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org)



## Calling All Singers!

If you enjoy singing, why not join the church choir - no audition needed! Rehearsals are on **Wednesday evenings** from **7:30 - 9 pm** in the Vestry **beginning Wednesday, September 4**. To learn more, speak with our music director Matthew Marion after church or at (401) 954-7107 or [mmarion1811@gmail.com](mailto:mmarion1811@gmail.com). Or speak with any choir member - they'd love to have you join them. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord!



## Knitting for Others Group - in person and via Zoom

The Knitting for Others Group will resume meeting both in person and via zoom on the first Tuesday of each month beginning **Tuesday, September 3** from **6:30 - 9 pm**. Feel free to stop into the library or join the call at any time and stay as long as you like. All knitters and crocheters are invited to participate and new faces are very welcome. For more information on the group, contact Nancy Arena at (401) 246-0212 or [nancy.arena@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com). *Zoom info is not included here for security reasons. It was in the email sent to the congregation.*



## Softball Playoffs - at a different location

The BCCUCC co-ed softball team will be participating in the playoffs with a game scheduled for **Tuesday, September 3** at **6 pm** at **Veterans Field\*** located next to the Barrington Y. The team they'll be playing has yet to be determined. Spectators are encouraged to come cheer on the team. *\*Note the change in location so they can play under lights if needed.*



## Women of Faith Reading Group

The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. They meet for discussions on books, faith and life on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from **1:30 - 3 pm** in the church library. They won't be starting up again until October when they'll meet **Thursdays, October 3 & 17**. Information on the book they'll be reading is tbd. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net)



## Staff updates

### Custodian retires

Church member Jay Buckley recently retired after two and a half years working as our head custodian. He originally came on staff in February 2022 to help us out when we were without any custodial coverage, agreeing to work through the end of that year! Fortunately he continued much longer, but has now stepped down. He's been a huge asset to the church in this role and will be missed. Jay's final day was August 22, and although he has retired from his custodial responsibilities, he and Phyllis will remain fixtures in our congregation. Please thank him when you see him.

### WANTED - Part-time Custodian

As noted above, we have lost one of our custodians so are looking for someone to fill the position. It's 10-15 hours per week (hours are flexible)

and is primarily to help with maintenance. Anyone interested in the position or knows someone who might be, is asked to please contact our Property Coordinator, Paul Dennis at (401) 243-3493 or [wrbtwks@aol.com](mailto:wrbtwks@aol.com). Thank you.



## Office Administrator retiring

Christine Wallis will be retiring at the end of September having worked in the office since 1998. An email was sent from Dale to the congregation on August 13 announcing both Jay and Christine's retirements. For more details, [see the email](#).

## Miscellaneous

### Door code changed

For security reasons, a new program year means a new code for the doors of the Education building. The office will be contacting those who need the new code. Questions? Contact the office at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)



### Do you need a name tag?

If you would like a nametag please contact the church office at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org) or call (401) 246-0111 and let us know what name you'd like on the nametag plus 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.



### 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 the next eBridge newsletter is **Wednesday, September 11**. Send information to Christine at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org).



### Online Giving

It's easy to make a donation online! Simply go to the donation page on our website at [www.bccucc.org/donation/](http://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.



### 'From the River's Edge' blog

The latest blog [What is Christian Nationalism and why does it matter?](#) was written by Dale. Click on the link above to read it.



*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.*



# Community News

## First LEGO League has openings

A Barrington LEGO League team has openings for a few extra 4th-8th grade students to join its robotics and research team this Fall. The team will meet weekly at **BCCUCC** to build and program a LEGO robot to compete in the "Robot Games", while also developing an innovation project to solve a real-world problem. Meetings start September 4. Please email Steven Felix [steven.a.felix@gmail.com](mailto:steven.a.felix@gmail.com) for more information.



## From the Barrington Farm School

Clements Marketplace in Bristol is hosting a matching fundraiser for [Barrington Farm School!](#) If you shop at Clements Marketplace Bristol, we invite you to drop any of your shopping receipts from Clements into the gray Honor Box at the BFS Farm Stand (located on the corner of Federal Rd and Middle Hwy). We will submit them on your behalf. Thanks in advance to you and to Clements Marketplace!



## 6th Annual Barrington Day of Caring -save the date!

**Monday, October 14, 2024** (Indigenous Peoples Day) **Noon - 4 pm.**  
Join us as a **VOLUNTEER!**

Barrington Day of Caring is a community-wide event for individuals, families, friends, or teams to come together as volunteers to help eligible residents in need through service projects. No skill set is needed to volunteer. However, your expertise is welcomed.

This event is a Town-supported program in connection with many community and faith organizations. [More information and registration.](#)



# News from the Conference

## SNEUCC Justice Summit 2024

Register now for the Southern New England Conference UCC Justice Summit: *Politics as an Act of Faith* - Saturday, September 14.

This day-long program will equip local church leaders, both lay and clergy, to engage with politics as people of faith. This Summit has something for everyone, including: a Bible study exploring what scripture says about politics and justice; sessions on the challenges of engaging political conversations, especially in such a polarized time; and connection with faith-based justice leaders for practical opportunities to take your faith beyond the pews. You can join on site at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, or online. *Registration to attend onsite closes Friday, August 30 at noon, and you have until Wednesday, September 11 at noon to register to attend online.* Learn more and register at: [www.sneucc.org/JusticeSummit2024](http://www.sneucc.org/JusticeSummit2024)



Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ

2024 JUSTICE SUMMIT  
Politics As An Act of Faith

## 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.



Southern New England Conference  
United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## Connect with Us

**Rev. Dale Azevedo** Senior Minister [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 103

**Rev. Racquel Ray** Associate Minister for Congregational Life [racquel@bccucc.org](mailto:racquel@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 104

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

**Pat Stoddard** Financial Secretary [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 102

**Andrea Bullard** Faith Formation Director [andrea@bccucc.org](mailto:andrea@bccucc.org) (401) 246-0111 x 107

**Matthew Marion** Music Director [mmarion1811@gmail.com](mailto: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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