

THE WHITE CHURCH BRIDGE

APRIL 2011

A Journey of Faith

Twenty three people, five months of meetings, getting to know one another, learning basic concepts of Judaism and Christianity, comparing our most sacred texts, eager to explore what we share in common as well as to understand and respect the differences...the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC and Temple Habonim went on a sacred journey together to Israel and Jordan.

“Waiting in a parking lot, a fellow traveller and I talked and shared about our lives – our eyes filled with tears. It was clear to both of us that the holiest places are those when we meet face to face and heart to heart.” Adam Mastoon

“Walking the streets of Tel Aviv and not feeling like I was in a minority for the first time in my life outside of our Temple community. ... The White Church of Barrington will no longer be just a pretty landmark; it has become a second spiritual home and family.”

Victor & Joanna Lerish

“We started as two Americans walking through the Holocaust Museum. We are two women – one of Jewish and one of German heritage. One remembering the pain of a generation gone before, one with ‘guilt by association.’ We left the museum as friends, each glad the other was there.” Barbara Wuth

“History has so much suffering and so many lessons. In some way, I hope that the persistence and joy of the men, women, and children we experienced and discovered will dominate. ... There are many complex and beautiful mosaics in Israel. Mosaic also describes the State of Israel as well as our group of travelers.” Lory & Charlie McCoy

“When we arrived in Jerusalem I felt a deep sense of returning to our home, even though it had been 27 years. It was a great sense of belonging. ... Having just gone through a very difficult loss, I felt embraced by such a compassionate group of people and the beauty of Israel.” Larry & Susan Ginsberg

“A perfect blend of religion, history, and politics. The balance was spot on. We cannot imagine a trip to the Holy Land any other way.” Barb & Ken Porter

(Continued on page 4)

Sunday Services in April



- April 3 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion,
Church School
- April 10 10 a.m. Worship Service with Special Music (see page 10)
Church School
- April 17 **PALM SUNDAY** and *New Member Sunday*
10 a.m. Worship Service with Bells, Reception of New Members,
Church School for PreK—Grade 6 only

See pages 7 & 8 for a full listing of all the services and events during Holy Week

- April 24 **EASTER**
- 5:45 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, Osamequin Point
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service for All Ages.
- After 9:15 Service Coffee Hour, Easter Egg Hunt for PreK-3rd Grade (see p. 9)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service for All Ages

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8 unless otherwise noted

Handicapped Accessible

Nursery Care Available

DEACONS FOR MARCH

Susan Seader (star deacon),
Marshall Hoyler, Abby Randazzo,
Francis Seader, Barbara Smith,
and Steve Peck

In the event of a pastoral emergency after hours, if you cannot reach Jeff (247-1787 home) or Elizabeth (245-3467 home) please call on one of the deacons.

Office Closing and Staff Away

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 25.

Christine Wallis will be away from the office April 26 to May 2.

The office may be open for reduced hours during this time so call ahead if you want to be certain someone is there.

From our Associate Minister



Each Lent, I try to bring more attention and intention to one of my beloved spiritual practices –whether it be writing, dancing, prayer, or walking. This year, I chose writing. I recruited a friend, as I often do, to join me on my own Lenten journey in addition to all the professional demands and spiritual inquiry of this season. This year’s choice of a guide was a newly published book called “Writing to God: 40 Days of Praying with my Pen” by Rachel G. Hackenberg which I highly recommend.

As I write this note, we are only into the second week of Lent. My first week of writing contained numerous simple sentences – subject & verbs attempting to articulate the wordless prayers for God’s abiding presence in the midst of so much turmoil, tragedy, and transition across the planet. My friend’s first week report expressed similar kinds of prayers AND also had a few surprises. Over the long-distance phone line, she proclaimed that “a miracle has happened EVERY day since I started writing!” One of these miracles happened while she was sitting on the beach, praying with her pen. A stranger passed by, asked her what she was doing, a conversation ensued, and the stranger-now-friend ended up joining her in church that Sunday. Just one of seven miracles in one week! I was inspired to witness her joy in both clearing the brush to make a path through the wilderness and opening to God’s grace. It is a reminder of how powerful this season really can be if we don’t just rush through it like another thing on the calendar.

The Kentucky farmer & poet Wendell Berry that I often quote wrote that there are two muses in life

the Muse of Inspiration, who gives us inarticulate visions and desires, and the Muse of Realization, who returns again and again to say “It is yet more difficult than you thought.”

I like to think this is where the Muse of Miracles plays a role in bridging the gap between inspiration and realization. Easter is like that too. We journey through the Lenten wilderness receiving the gift of the truth of what is really essential in our lives (and how very hard but life-giving it can be to embrace what is most authentic in our lives). Then Easter comes and offers to turn our lives upside down with the centuries-old echo of new life bursting forth.

However you’ve been praying this season – with pen, in worship, in yard work, while driving, cooking, or walking, I hope the Muse of Miracles has greeted you at least once.

Easter peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid and personal.

(Continued from page 1)

“The contrast: a visit to a place of complex and visceral relationships over 4,000 years which still continues today. Our trip helped us understand where it all came from.” **Ed Schottland**

“I’ll soon forget the aching feet; I’ll remember forever where they took me for the last amazing 11 days!” **Ronnie Newman**

“There are powerful ways of reminding ourselves to get to know and tolerate others. It is very difficult to get past the ‘errors of childhood,’ but quite possible.” **Linda Remington**

“My interfaith experience reinforced my belief that it is only by proximity, living day to day next to others of different faiths, values, and nationalities that we can come to understand that we are all God’s creations. ... The sweetest of all was to be able to say Kaddish for both my parents in Israel and to do it surrounded by people who love me.”

Marvin & Linda Homonoff

Simply Stated

Pre-trip: my people, your people.

End of trip: our people.

Baruch Atah Adonai, May the Lord bless and keep you. **Kathleen Larsen**

“A memorable part was enjoying both new and old friends as we all became a big congenial family.” **Helen MacDonald**

“When I read the Beatitudes at the location where Jesus spoke, my heart was on fire. When we rededicated my Baptism in the Jordan River, my whole being was jello. I never expected quite that emotional response. When I stood at the Western Wall and prayed with hundreds of mostly Jewish people to our shared God, I truly felt His presence. ... Where are we going next?” **Steve & Marion Fodor**

As spiritual leaders of our respective communities, we envisioned a journey of faith that would do more than reassure us of all the things that Jews and Christians have in common. We developed a challenging vigorous itinerary that pushed preconceived notions and assumptions in an attempt to open eyes and hearts. Our expectations were exceeded as the two of us opened our hearts, sharing tender intimate spiritual moments with our fellow seekers.

The power of crying together in each other’s sacred places moved all of us - Jew and Christian alike - to a new level of trust and respect. We feel grateful and honored to be the leaders of two religious communities with such a strong history of caring and respect for each other. We look forward to what might be next.

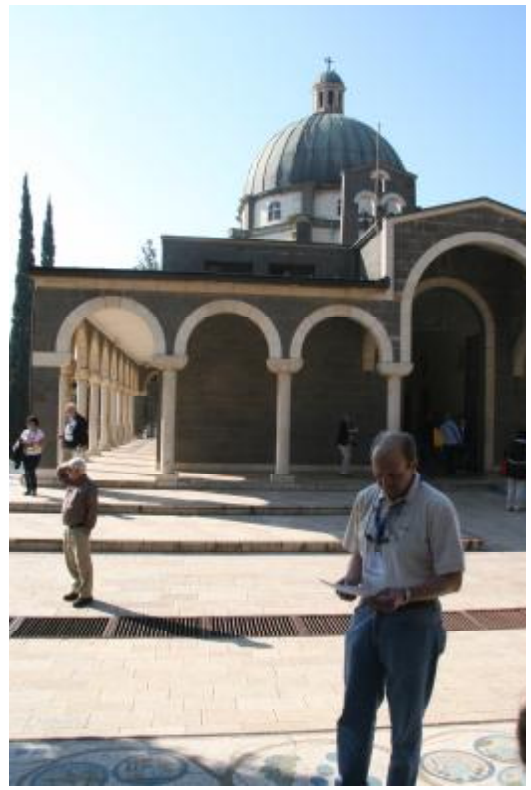
Rabbi Andrew Klein & Rev. Jeffrey Larsen

(Continued on page 5)



Above - Helen MacDonald riding a camel in the desert.

Right - Steve Fodor reading The Beatitudes at the site where Jesus gave The Sermon on the Mount.



Lots more pictures of the trip will be made available later for your viewing.

Below - The group planting trees in the National Forest - a traditional activity before leaving Israel.





LENTEN CALENDAR

COMING TO OUR SENSES: MEDITATIONS ON JESUS' MINISTRY IN THE FLESH

- Third Sunday of Lent **March 27th** 10 a.m. Theme: Sight
Focus Scripture: John 9:1-41 *A Man Born Blind*
- Fourth Sunday of Lent **April 3th** 10 a.m. Theme: Taste
Focus Scripture: John 4:5-42 *The Woman at the Well*
- Fifth Sunday of Lent **April 10th** 10 a.m. Theme: Smell
Focus Scripture: John 11:1-45 *Raising Lazarus to Life*
- Palm Sunday **April 17th** 10 a.m. Theme: No sense!
Focus Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11 *Entry into Jerusalem*
- Maundy Thursday—A Service of Communion and Tenebrae
April 21st 7 p.m. Theme: Suffering Body
- Easter Sunday **April 24th** 9:15 & 11 a.m. Theme: Restored Body
Focus Scripture: Matthew 28: 1-10

2

SPECIAL LENTEN MUSIC

Sunday, April 10th during the 10 a.m. worship service (see p. 10)

2

LENTEN STUDY WITH JEFF

Today's Holy Land – Today's Scripture

Jeff will give a reflection on his recent trip to Israel as related to the Lenten theme and readings. He will offer the same program on two different occasions for your convenience. All are welcome.

Monday night, **April 11th, 7-8:30 p.m.** in the church library
OR Thursday afternoon, **April 14th, 1:30-3 p.m.** in the church library.

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(Continued from page 6)

EVENING LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES WITH ELIZABETH

5—6:30 p.m. in the church library. A light supper will be served.

Sundays, March 27th and April 10th

Based on the book *Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice*
by Stephanie Paulsell

While you are encouraged to read the book, reading is not required to participate in these sessions. Topics to be covered include “Pondering the Mystery of the Body”, “Nourishing the Body”, “Blessing our Table Life” and “Honoring the Suffering Body”

Join us for some or part of the series. All are welcome. *Please sign up with Elizabeth ahead of time* if you plan to attend (246-0111 or Elizabeth@bccucc.org) as a minimum number of participants is needed.



2011 MISSION TRIP

A group of 8 high-school youth and 3 adults led by the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum, will leave for Pittsburgh, PA at 8 a.m. on Palm Sunday, April 17th for the 2011 Mission Trip. They will be participating in a Pittsburgh Experience (see p. 21 for details). They expect to return home around 8 p.m. on Good Friday, April 22nd. Please keep the group in your prayers.



2

PALM SUNDAY— APRIL 17TH



Holy Week begins with the **Palm Sunday Service** at **10:00 a.m.** and the green eco-palms will be distributed.

This is also **New Member Sunday** so the service will include the reception of new members. If you are interested in joining our church, see page 10 for more information.

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(Continued from page 7)

PALM SUNDAY (continued)



After Worship CEYM will host a **LENTEN LOLLAPALOOZA** in Fellowship Hall. Adults and children of all ages are invited to make palm crosses, pretzels and various other Lenten crafts.

2

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

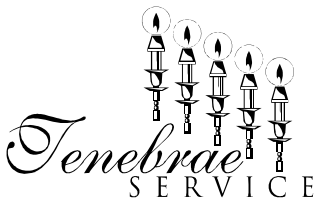
7:00—7:15 a.m. Mon.-Fri., April 18-22 in the Library.

During this time of reflection **Rev. Jeff Larsen** will give a word for the day, provide coffee, and will finish in time for you to head off to work or school. All are welcome to come for this ‘quiet time’ at the start of their day.

2

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 21ST

A **Tenebrae Service** will be held in the Sanctuary at **7:00 p.m.**



The deacons and clergy will lead this worship service in which the story of Jesus’ passion and suffering will be read, with candles extinguished one by one. The service also includes communion and music. All are invited to deepen their experience of the resurrection by living through the passion and death of Christ in this contemplative service.

2

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 22ND

Noon Ecumenical Good Friday Service
at **St. John’s Episcopal Church**, 191 County Road, Barrington.



All are welcome to attend this annual service sponsored by the Barrington Clergy Association. The Rev. Robert Marshall, Rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church, will preach.

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EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES—APRIL 24TH

Easter Sunday begins with a **5:45 a.m.**

SUNRISE ECUMENICAL COMMUNION SERVICE

at **Osamequin Point*** off the Wampanoag Trail,

sponsored by several of the Barrington churches. All are invited.



*located 1.1 miles north of the church on the Wampanoag Trail (Route 114).



At **9:15 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** there will be

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR ALL AGES

in the sanctuary of BCCUCC,

featuring preaching by the Rev. Jeffrey Larsen,

a children's message, and music from the organ, brass and the

church's adult choir at both services.

Nursery care will be provided at both services

Following the 9:15 a.m. service only...

EASTER EGG HUNT for children in PreK—3rd Grade. (see below)



EASTER EGG HIDING AND HUNT

There will be an Easter egg hiding session Easter morning, April 24, at 8:30 a.m. Please see Andrea Bullard if you would like to help with this fun activity. A special treat will be offered when we are finished hiding the eggs!

There will be an Easter egg hunt for PreK through third graders following the 9:15 service. Please bring a basket!



**Interested in learning more about our church ?
Considering joining ?**

We are blessed to have a number of people new to our church community. We would like to help you learn more about us and invite you to

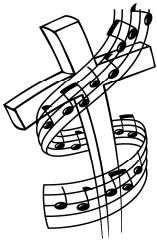
“Conversations About Our Church”

that will be held following worship on **Sunday, April 3rd**

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in Room 6.

We are glad to provide child care if there is interest – please contact the church office (246-0111 or office@bccucc.org) and let us know ahead of time so we can make those arrangements.

For those who would like to become official members – this will happen on **New Member Sunday, April 17th** during worship.



**Special music during worship
on Sunday, April 10th**

During the service the vocal choir will present

“In Calvary’s Shadow”
by Victor C. Johnson



This moving setting depicts Jesus’ journey from betrayal through crucifixion, with both familiar and new music, and dramatic scripture readings.

This will be a meaningful service as we journey together through Lent toward Easter Sunday and the Resurrection.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, April 17th at the 10:00 a.m. service we look forward to receiving new members into this church.

Please join us and welcome those who become members.

Interested in joining our church? See “Conversations” above.



Help Beautify Our Sanctuary for Easter



We invite you to make a donation to the

Chancel Fund

Money donated to this fund will be used to help beautify the Sanctuary – including the purchase of spring flowers to decorate the church this Easter.

You are invited to make a donation in any amount, large or small.

Donations to the Chancel Fund may be made in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for, or celebration of, someone or something (a person, birthday, anniversary, etc). All dedications will be listed in a special insert to be included in the Easter bulletins.

All of the Easter plants from the sanctuary will be taken down following the 11 a.m. service and delivered to the homebound, sick, or recently bereaved from our congregation. Please note that plants will not be available to be taken home.

Please complete the donation form on the next page and return to the church office with your donation by Wednesday, April 13th. Alternatively, the completed form and donation can be put in the offering plate on Sundays or left with a member of the Chancel Ministry Team who will be at the piano in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour following Sunday services.

Thank you for your donation.

see next page for Donation Form

Chancel Fund Donation Form

Easter 2011

***Please read carefully all of the information on the previous page
before filling in the donation form below.***

I would like to donate \$ to the Chancel Fund.

Donations are welcome in any amount.

Please make checks payable to 'Barrington Congregational Church'
and mark the memo line "Chancel Fund".

Please put the following dedication in the Easter bulletin insert:

Given by
(please print clearly)

In memory of
.....

In thanksgiving for
.....

In celebration of
.....

Please complete & return with your donation by Wednesday, April 13th

Thank you for your donation.

HOW CAN YOU USE YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS AT BCCUCC ?

Perhaps it's teaching church school, or singing in the church choir, or campaigning for social justice issues, or keeping our church buildings in good condition, or greeting people before worship on a Sunday morning, or overseeing the finances of the church, or welcoming new members, or helping out in the nursery, or taking a meal to someone just home from the hospital. These are just a few of the many different and varied opportunities for ministry at Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, that you could be a part of. What you chose to do depends on what interests you, what your gifts and talents are, and what you feel called to do.

On the other hand, perhaps you've been doing the same thing at church for years, but you'd like a change and want to try something different that might "stretch" you.

Being on a Ministry Team is one way that many people at BCCUCC choose to serve. A number of positions on the various Ministry Teams will be opening up in May and the Nominating Team asks that you consider serving on a team. Included as an addendum to this electronic *Bridge* (on [pages 32-35](#)) is information from a leaflet "**Opportunities for Getting Involved in Our Church**" that contains more details about each of our ministry teams. We hope you will take a few minutes to read it and prayerfully think about what might be a good 'fit' for you and where you might serve. You are also welcome to call and speak with the team leader and/or attend a meeting for more information.

To volunteer or just learn about what it means to serve on a ministry team, please contact Mary Louise Gamache (245-9914) or Bernie Hawes (437-1860) from the Nominating Ministry Team.



Need a Nametag?

Sign up for one on the sheet under the nametag rack in the vestry hallway. Please remember to wear your nametag for both worship and coffee hour. Drop it in one of the baskets when you leave and find it back on the nametag rack the following week.

MEETINGS AT CHURCH

When your ministry team or church group schedules a meeting, please let the church office know so that...

- A) we can include it on the church calendar, and
- B) we can assign you a room in which to meet.

There are times when several different groups meet at the church at the same time so to avoid conflicts with use of space, please reserve a room with the church office ahead of time. Thank you.

After Worship Adult Education

Sundays after Worship in the Church Library from approx. **11:20 am—12:20 pm**
(Stop by Fellowship Hall on the way & grab a hot beverage & snack)

will meet on **March 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 8, 15** (later dates tbd)

The group is continuing their reading and discussion of the book

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong

All are welcome to any or all of the series. Join us! Facilitators rotate.

Contact Elizabeth Barnum for more information (246-0111 or Elizabeth@bccucc.org)

The twelve steps outlined in the book are:

First Step: Learn About Compassion

Second Step: Look at Your Own World

Third Step: Compassion for Yourself

Fourth Step: Empathy

Fifth Step: Mindfulness

Sixth Step: Action

Seventh Step: How Little We Know

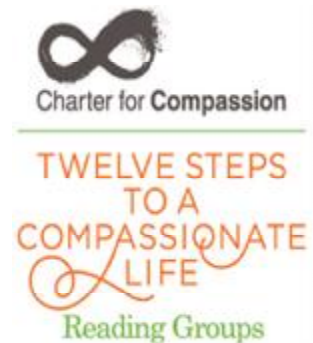
Eighth Step: How Should We Speak to One Another?

Ninth Step: Concern for Everybody

Tenth Step: Knowledge

Eleventh Step: Recognition

Twelfth Step: Love Your Enemies



The New England Conferences of the United Church of Christ are sponsoring a special event for the General Public:

AN EVENING WITH GREG MORTENSON
Co-author of the best-seller *Three Cups of Tea*

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA

Tickets are \$51.50 each. Greg Mortenson's speaking fee covers the cost of building a school in Afghanistan or Pakistan.



Please contact Elizabeth Barnum if you are attending and are interested in carpooling.

Visit www.macucc.org and look under Events for more information or to register.

ONE LAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER to help support our youth going on a Service-Learning Experience to Pennsylvania during Holy Week. Gas prices have been rising so we hope to have a bit more buffer of funds for our trip. AND time for spring cleaning of your car! Please note that environmentally-friendly soap suds will be used and the minimum amount of water to effectively clean your vehicle.



CAR WASH IN OUR PARKING LOT

Sunday, April 10th

9 - 10 AM and 11 AM - 1 PM

to benefit the 2011 Mission Trip

Cost: Donation amount of your choice

Options for car washing:

A) Before the service [if before 9:45 AM] **OR** B) After the service as you leave.

And join us during worship on April 10th for a commissioning of the group going on the Mission Trip!

Please sign up
to participate!

"Loving Committed Relationships"

Sunday, May 1 st

5—8 PM at BCCUCC



An evening of soup and fellowship... looking at what goes in to living in a positive, growing, loving committed relationship... led by Kathleen and Jeffrey Larsen.

The challenges of our times on relationships – children, careers, aging, surviving divorce, empty-nest – are persistent, never-ending. And yet many are working thru these issues creatively and successfully. Come and hear some of our parishioners talk about their experiences and open discussions. Open to all.

Suggested reading before the event: 'Committed' by Elizabeth Gilbert.

For planning purposes, we need to know how many people will be participating so please sign up by Wednesday, April 27th by contacting the church office at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org. Questions? Contact Jeff or Kathleen.

The April 2011 calendar as found on pages 16-17 of the printed version can also be found on the Calendar page of the church website www.bccucc.org.

BCCUCC's Affirmation of Welcome



We believe that all people are blessed and loved equally by God. Following the teachings of Jesus we heartily welcome everyone into God's covenantal community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic or marital status, variety of thoughts and beliefs, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression--whoever you are and wherever you come from you are welcome into the full life and ministry of our church.

It's not too late to join in a Lenten Fast . . .from Carbon

The New England Regional Environmental Ministries group of the U.C.C. is holding a special Lenten Fast from Carbon. Throughout Lent, participants receive a daily e-mail with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. To read more or to sign up to participate go to http://www.nhcucc.org/documents/WeeklyNewsDocuments/Lenten_Carbon_Fast_2011.pdf

The six New England Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ have all endorsed this initiative and encourage local churches to participate.





**Do you still need to get a copy of
The Bridge
delivered to your door?**

If you are reading this on your computer, and you still receive a hard copy by snail mail, please consider 'canceling' your mailed copy. It will not only save resources (the cost of the paper, ink, postage etc) but will also save the time and labor it takes to run it off and put it together.

To 'cancel' your hard copy, just e-mail office@bccucc.org and we'll use your e-mail address to send you *The Bridge* electronically.

As an added bonus of reading it on-line, you'll receive *The Bridge* much more quickly - often before it has even had time to be sorted at the post office!

Thank you to everyone who already reads *The Bridge* on-line.



Changes to *The Bridge* newsletter in 2012

Beginning January 2012, we plan to only send out *The Bridge* electronically. Some copies will still be printed for those without computers, but everyone else will just receive our newsletter via e-mail. This is in line with what many other churches and organizations are now doing. It will save the church resources, money and time, and the goal is to have our newsletter in a more computer friendly format.

The timing of this change seems perfect since the State will be building a brand new 'White Church Bridge' in 2012!



Help Fight Hunger during Lent

*Join Tap-In and the Allen Shawn Feinstein Foundation
in the fight to eliminate hunger.*

During the months of **March and April** all food donations to the Tap -In food pantry are being counted and used to stock their shelves. Tap-In will receive a portion of one million dollars being donated by the Feinstein foundation and the more food collected the more funding Tap In will receive. The more money they receive the more food they can buy!

Although many people make donations to Tap In during the holiday season, **now** is when it becomes most difficult for families to meet their basic needs. Food donations drop and heating and energy costs rise draining families of income needed for food. More and more families find themselves in need of assistance from community food pantries. Every month approximately 500 families, over 1400 individuals, are receiving food from Tap In. The food Tap In buys flies off the shelves.

BCCUCC is doing their part to help TapIn by holding a...

FOOD DRIVE



which began on March 13th and will **end on Easter Sunday, April 24th**. We are collecting non-perishable food items each week during Lent. The following are needed:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cereal | Juices |
| Canned tuna, chicken, or ham | Chicken noodle or vegetable soup |
| Peanut Butter | Chili |
| Jelly | Instant potatoes and rice |
| Canned pasta and sauce | Cookies and crackers |
| Canned fruit | |

Please remember to bring your food donation to church and place it in the bins in the narthex. Each week some of the items will be brought up and put on the altar during the offering time.

Alternatively, you can drop off your donation directly at Tap In (open 9-Noon, Monday through Friday).

Thank you for your help in contributing to Tap-In's food pantry.



Keep those pennies rolling in for Pennies for Peace™



During Lent (March 13th thru April 24th) the CEYM Team has designated all donations collected from church school children to **Pennies for Peace™**. Church School children may place their pennies in the clear glass jars that are located in their church school classrooms, sanctuary, and Coffee Hour tables during Lent.

However, it's not just the children collecting pennies. **Adults are also encouraged to join in and help raise money for this cause.** Need a glass collection jar? There are some on the back table in Fellowship Hall—help yourself!

Pennies for Peace™, a program of the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Central Asia Institute, was founded by Greg Mortenson*. Greg is the co-founder and executive director of Central Asia Institute, and co-author of the #1 NY Times Best-seller, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School At A Time*.

Your donation is a restricted donation, where 100% of funds raised will be used for overseas program support.

Thanks to everyone who has already brought in pennies—keep them coming!

*For an opportunity to hear Greg Mortenson speak, see article on page 14.

Collection continues for Holy Joe's Café during Lent

Once again this Lenten season we are collecting monetary donations for the Holy Joe's Café run by UCC military chaplains. The chaplains invite soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait into a safe and informal place where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. Thanks to the support from many different UCC churches, more than 125 chaplains are now able to participate in this **Coffee House Ministry**. In August, 2010, four years after the launch of the coffee house ministry, Holy Joe's Cafe had shipped 117 tons of coffee to military chaplains for use in the coffee house counseling programs—enough to provide 23 million cups of coffee to U.S. troops!



Baskets for this donation are on the coffee tables during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall during the Lenten season (March 13—April 17). Please be generous and support this ministry. Our chaplains are a first line defense against the emotional and psychological issues faced by our troops.



Lenten Lollapalooza for all ages!

CEYM is hosting a Lenten Lollapalooza on

Palm Sunday, April 17th

after church in Fellowship Hall.

Adults and children of all ages are invited to join them in making palm crosses, pretzels and various other seasonal crafts.

Godly Play Schedule for April

- April 3 All Godly Players will hear the Faces of Easter 7
- April 10 All Godly Players will have special "Feast and Work" time
- April 17 PreK - 3rd Grades The Mystery of Easter
4th - 6th Grades Jesus and the Twelve
- April 24 PreK - 8th Grades attend Worship at either 9:15 or 11 a. m.
Easter Egg Hunt after the 9:15 service for PreK - 3rd grades



JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (JPF)

All youth in grades 6-8 are welcome to participate

Saturday, April 16th JPF will be helping at the soup kitchen in Pawtucket that afternoon, together with the Mission Trippers and CEYM.



Those interested in participating should contact Elizabeth Barnum at 246-0111 or Elizabeth@bccucc.org

Confirmation Update



Sunday, April 3rd

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 9

Sunday, May 1st

Confirmation during 10 a.m. Worship Service

The membership team will contact you about the Confirmation reception that takes place prior to the service.



Mission Trip 2011 Update
*An Urban Plunge & Service-Learning
 Experience during Holy Week*



Eight youth & three adult chaperones will spend Holy Week in Pittsburgh, PA doing volunteer work with a nonprofit community development organization called the Pittsburgh Project. We especially thank the entire congregation and community for all their support in our ongoing fundraising efforts!



We depart on **Sunday, April 17th** and return on **Friday, April 22nd**

but **FIRST** we'll participate in serving at the
Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket with CEYM
 & JPF on **Saturday, April 16th** for a pre-trip 'warm-up'.



Here is what the Pittsburgh Project has to say about how we'll be spending our time:

"REPAIR HOMES FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS. You'll spend your days in service to the city's elderly, poor, shut-in, widowed, and disabled, addressing home repair needs. Projects usually include painting, dry walling, carpentry, and yardwork. They often include minor plumbing or masonry tasks, building wheelchair ramps, fortifying retaining walls, or replacing doors, floors, and windows. You'll see the difference you've made by the end of your week. You'll know that God worked through the relationships you've built and the work you've labored to finish. And you'll hit the road with a map for how to make a difference in a neighborhood near you."

SCHEDULE FOR MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 10th | 9:00-10:00 a.m. | Car Wash |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Commissioning during Worship |
| | 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Car Wash |
| | 7:00-8:00 p.m. | Last Mission Trip Meeting, Library |
| Saturday, April 17th | 2:30-5:30 p.m. | Serve at Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket |
| Sunday, April 18th | 8:00 a.m. | Depart from church parking lot for Mission Trip |

****All forms & final payment ARE POST-DUE. Please return them to Elizabeth A.S.A.P.**** Contact Elizabeth with any questions.

Our Whole Lives Update from Elizabeth



In recent newsletters and ministry team meetings, I have been sharing the exciting news that BCCUCC has been chosen to be part of a national study of a progressive sexuality education program. Our Whole Lives is a series of comprehensive sexuality education resources written by human sexuality educators for use in churches, schools, and community settings. A separate resource, *Sexuality and Our Faith*, provides materials for incorporating faith-based teaching into each session.

The primary four values of Our Whole Lives are (1) self-worth, (2) sexual health, (3) responsibility and (4) justice & inclusivity. We continue in the process of recruiting volunteers, educating lay leaders, and preparing to learn how to implement the program for Gr. 7-9 & Gr. 10-12 either this fall or in the later implementation phase, depending on the timeline given to us by the research team.

BREAKING NEWS:

It is a likely possibility that we may be the host site for this region's facilitators to come for their 3-day training! This makes it more convenient for our 6 volunteer facilitators to receive training locally. It also allows BCCUCC the chance to extend an extravagant welcome & hospitality to those attending from other churches. This training will likely happen for three days in June and will require host homes, meals, and a warm welcome from members & friends of this congregation. Stay tuned to hear a lot more about this incredible opportunity.

The ABCs of Our Whole Lives

Late winter, I provided a reflection on why holistic spirituality & sexuality education was important for churches to support. I started by listing themes from A-L. Here in brief, I list the A-L themes along with M-Z!

A	Acceptance AND Affirmation	N	Nonexploitative
B	Body of Christ	O	Open-minded
C	Creation & Community	P	Parents as primary sexuality educators
D	Diversity & Decision-making	Q	All Questions have value!
E	Equality	R	Responsibility
F	Freedom	S	Spirituality
G	God's Gifts	T	Temple (Body as)
H	Healthy - Humanity - Holiness	U	Understanding
I	Incarnation & Inclusivity	V	Values
J	Justice	W	self-Worth
K	Knowledge	X	seXuality
L	Love! Life! Learning!	Y	Youth
M	Meaning-Making	Z	Zest for life – heart, body, mind and soul!

A Recap of 'The Day of Godly Play'

by Elizabeth Barnum



On Saturday, March 5th, a group of BCCUCC volunteers gathered with Elizabeth, Andrea and our Godly Play Trainer Jennifer Sanborn for six hours of deepening our practice of Godly Play. A special thanks to the CEYM Team for their help in making this happen! Jenn led us in an exploration in the stories of the prophets from the Hebrew Bible. During the morning, we had the chance to experience a complete Godly Play session working with the core story of "Exile & Return". Then we had the chance to reflect on the experience together as adults, review the Godly Play session outline, and the roles of storyteller and doorkeeper. Then we had the chance to go 'deeper' hearing the enrichment story of the prophet Isaiah. Then after a yummy lunch from Bagels Etc... and POG cookies from the Westmoreland/Maio family, we explored the art of storytelling. We had the chance to work in triads and practice the stories of the prophet Jeremiah and the prophet Ezekiel. It was a wonderful day of learning, reflection, and community-building! Thank you!

What words did the adults use to describe their experience of Godly Play?

comforting – engaging – peaceful – reflective – questioning – mysterious – quiet
– contradictions – informative – fearful – cycle of history – patterns – intentional –
captivating – structure – patient – life and death – predictable – touchable –
relevant - symbolic

Spring Training: Covering all the Bases Raising K-12 children amid a field of influences

Sunday, April 10th 2:00 p.m. Barrington Middle School

SHARON MAXWELL, PHD

Award winning author of THE TALK: A Breakthrough Guide to Raising Healthy Kids
in an Over-Sexualized, On-Line, In-Your-Face World

Learn concrete strategies to:

- Create a plan for responsible internet/cell phone use
- Teach your children the value of self-effort and self-control
- Lay the foundation for healthy sexuality from elementary through college
- Teach children the value of words

Activities for children will be provided

✓ Visit www.thebayteam.org to register ✓



The Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team is looking for help with several maintenance and clean-up projects on

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 30th

9 a.m.—1 p.m.



Volunteers — both skilled and unskilled — are welcome, so please consider volunteering some of your time on April 30th to help with some much needed work around the church and grounds - even if it's for only an hour or so.

So that they have some idea of how many people will be participating and what jobs can be scheduled, please **sign up ahead of time** by contacting Maureen Jean (632-4437) of Buildings and Grounds or the church office (246-0111 or office@bccucc.org). However, last minute volunteers are also most welcome!

There is lots of yard work that needs to get done so if possible please bring garden tools for working on the grounds. Work gloves are also recommended for all volunteers.

! | *Many hands make light work!* | !



WANTED — LAND OR HOUSE TO BE USED FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

From the Barrington Clergy Association to all residents of Barrington:

The Barrington Housing Board is asking for a donation in the form of land or an existing home to be made to Habitat for Humanity. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about this please contact Matthew Amaral of the Barrington Housing Board.

More information can be found in a recent article on Barrington Patch: <http://barrington.patch.com/articles/habitat-for-humanity-donor-in-barrington-where-are-you>



5th Annual Regina F. Berenback Memorial Lecture for Social Action and Justice

will be given by

Professor Jorge Elorza, J.D.

Associate Professor of Law, Roger Williams University
School of Law, and Founder and Co-Chairman of
the Latino Policy Institute, RWU



on the subject of

“Social Justice and Immigration”

Sunday, April 3, 2011

2:00 pm

Fellowship Hall of BCCUCC

This event is FREE and open to the community.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the Justice and Witness Ministry Team of BCCUCC

** * Please support this church event with your attendance * **



We continue to collect Men's Clothing for *The George Hunt Help Center*, in Providence. Men's shirts, jeans, trousers, jackets, hats, sweaters, boots, shoes, sneakers, and belts are always popular—but all clean men's clothing in good condition is accepted. Now that Spring is here, more lightweight clothing will be needed.

Men's toiletries are also always needed.

There is a collection hamper in the Vestry for your donations. Thank you.

GO LOCAL Farmers Market
Barrington Congregational Church, UCC
Saturdays, June 4 – October 29, 2011
9 a.m. – 12 Noon



We had a great year as a first year market in 2010 and are looking for an even better market this coming summer. Take a look at pictures of our market from last summer on our GO LOCAL Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/GoLocalFarmersMarket>

Our hope is that all our vendors will join us again and we will add a variety of new vendors to the market. **Seven Stars Bakery is our newest addition!**

Also new this year, church member and marketing expert Steve Peck is going to update and manage the Go Local Facebook page and write and manage a Go Local blog and Twitter account! This should really increase traffic. In addition, we are going to recruit local organizations and invite them to hold functions at our market to further increase traffic. La Crepere has agreed to make strawberry crepes to order during strawberry season and the Friends of the Library may hold their book sale at our market.

Please let me know if you know of any vendors who may be interested in leasing space at our market. Also, please let me know if you know of an organization who may want to hold an event at our market.

Lastly, Jean Arnold, Steve Cipoletti, Carol Louttit, Abby Randazzo, Betsy Restituyo, Audrey Rogers and Bethia Rosner were instrumental to the success of the market. Thanks to them, we have many Saturdays covered for the 2011 season but could use a few more folks on an “as needed” list. *Please let me know if you would like to help on a Saturday.* It’s really fun!

And a big thank you to all the church members who have come to the market to shop. It means so much to the success of the market. Please know how grateful we are for your support.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Lisa Browning

GO LOCAL Market Manager golocalmarket@gmail.com 401-529-9501

Late breaking news.....check out Go Local’s brand new website at
<http://golocalfarmersmarket.blogspot.com/>

AUCTION UPDATE



Great progress is being made on the planning of the 2011 auction and we are very excited. We have once again selected Pranzi to cater this event (remember the terrific grilled pizza and other goodies at the last auction?). The donations team continues to work hard and has already solicited some great donations from area businesses with lots more coming in.

Have you decided what you want to donate yet? It is not too early to donate so watch for the donations table at coffee hour and fill out the form - or just talk with members of the donations team to get some great and creative ideas. The team members are:



Judy Harff: judy@harff.com 289-0438

Lorraine Keeney: lkeeney@uri.edu 486-3042

Laurie Lennon: lemlaur@hotmail.com 694-0715

Pat Rude: ru4880@cox.net 245-7712

Jane & Doug Tonn: jtonn2@cox.net 289-2349

We will be back at Stanley's Boatyard on Saturday, September 17th - so be sure to SAVE THE DATE! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Gather at the River - Catch the Spirit Auction. More details and ticket information to follow.

Keep track of the auction's progress by going to the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bccucc and find it under Events.

Or simply click on the Facebook logo to the right.



facebook

Our church is on Facebook

Note: You don't have to have a Facebook account in order to access our page.

Check it out at www.facebook.com/bccucc and then 'Like' us so that you get our news feeds.

And be sure to suggest our FB page to your friends!



www.bccucc.org



LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR OUR CHURCH

In an effort to better plan for the many and varied facets of our future as a church community, the Church Council appointed a Long Range Planning Team (LRPT), currently chaired by Tom Colby. Other team members include Rev. Elizabeth Barnum, Chris Brady, Paul Dennis, Steve and Marion Fodor, Kim Godfrey, Rev. Jeff Larsen, Lynne Lehman, John Loerke, Fred MacDonald, Dick

McWhirter, Lee Miller, Paula Rooks, and Susan Rotblat-Walker.

The Team will be meeting with the various church Ministry Teams over the next several months to identify long term goals and how they might be achieved. The information will be incorporated into a larger Long Range Plan for our church.

Anyone in our church community that has a particular area of interest is invited to attend that team's meeting with the LRPT or be in touch with them directly with your thoughts.

LRPT/Ministry Team Meeting Schedule

- Sun., April 3rd **Finance Ministry Team**, after worship, Office Workroom
- Mon., April 4th **Deacons**, 7:15 PM, Room 6
- Tue., April 5th **Pastor Parish Relations Team**, 7:15 PM, location tba
- Mon., April 11th **Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team**, 7 PM, Room 6
- Wed., May 11th **Justice & Witness Ministry Team**, 7:30 PM, Library
- Sun., May 15th **Music Ministry Team & Choirs**, after worship, Vestry
- Tue., May 17th **Membership Ministry Team**, 7 PM, Room 6
- June **Christian Education & Youth Ministries Team**, date & location tba



RI Conference of the UCC SPRING MEETING

May 7, 2011

Edgewood Congregational UCC

1788 Broad Street, Cranston RI 02905

Visitors welcome!

Important Note: We are short of delegates to represent BCCUCC at the Conference level. Please contact the church office if you might be interested in being a delegate and attending this meeting. Thank you.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

February 27 – 114

March 6 – 199

March 13 – 132

March 20 – 166

The **Dine-Out Group** invites you to join them for dinner on

Friday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m.

when they will eat at

Stella Blues,

50 Miller Street, Warren



Reservations need to be made by **Monday, March 28th** to Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 245-4724.

All are welcome.

The Women's Faith Group

The group will meet on

Thursdays, April 7th and 21st

from **1:30—3 p.m.**

for discussion of the book

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

The group welcomes all women from BCCUCC as well as from other churches and faith traditions. For more information contact Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or chl2299@aol.com, or Nancy Martin at 273-1078 or nancy.martin3@verizon.net



KNITTING FOR OTHERS

Thursday, March 31st

(date changed due to a conflict on 4/7)

7 –9 p.m. in the library.

The group welcomes new knitters (and crocheters) to knit items to be given away. If interested, please contact Kathleen Larsen at 401 247-1787 or klarsenswc@hotmail.com.

The



deadline for submission of articles to be included in the May *Bridge* will be

Wednesday, April 13th.

Book Group

next meets on

Thursday, April 14th

at **7:30 p.m.**

at **The Coffee Depot**

501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

The Grace of Silence:

a Memoir by Michele Norris.

Michele Norris, host of National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," set out, through original reporting, to write a book about "the hidden conversation on race" that is going on in this country. But along the way she unearthed painful family secrets. Extraordinary for Norris's candor in examining her own complex racial legacy, "The Grace of Silence" is also informed by hundreds of interviews with ordinary Americans and wise observations about evolving attitudes toward race in America.

★ Thank You! ★ ★ THANK YOU! ★

.....to Amy Gorman, Anita DiMatteo, Laurie Dubel, Francis Seader, Elizabeth Barnum, Greg Knight, Jane Knight, Ginger Stabach, Betsy Restituyo, Kristen Westmoreland, Susan Short, Kathy Sullivan, Kate Loos, Brianna Shoaf, and Susan Rotblat-Walker for volunteering in Church School.

.....to CEYM for sponsoring A Day of Godly Play.

.....to Laurie Dubel, Cathleen Joachim, Greg Knight, Kate Loos, Carol Strakosch, Kathy Sullivan, and Susan Rotblat-Walker for joining Elizabeth and Andrea for A Day of Godly Play.

.....to Tim Gorman at Bagels Etc. for providing coffee, bagels and wraps for A Day of Godly Play.

.....to Bill Dewitt and the confirmands for serving pancakes at coffee hour on March 20th.

.....to Sheila Hutton for returning the nametags to the rack in the vestry every week.

.....and to Jeff Larsen for taking POG with him on the trip to Israel and making sure POG didn't get lost in the market in Jerusalem! POG returned safely and looks forward to seeing everyone again.

Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6



May Breakfast

at St. John's Episcopal Church
191 County Road, Barrington RI 02806

on Friday, April 29th, 2011
from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Full breakfast - all you can eat

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
All Welcome!

Adults - \$8
Children under 12 - \$5

Pastor Parish Relations Team (PPRT)

If you have a concern, you are invited to contact a member of PPRT. They meet regularly and deal with the concerns of the ministers, the staff and the congregation — so feel free to contact any of their members.

Phyllis Buckley (245-1098)

Sharon Sylvester (247-4532)

Marshall Hoyler (245-1118)

Laurie Lennon (694-0715)

John Muth (433-2878)

Their next meeting is scheduled for April 5th.

E-mail Prayer Chain

If you have a **prayer request**, you are invited to call Kathleen Larsen at 247-1787 or e-mail her at KLarsenswc@hotmail.com who will pass it on to the confidential e-prayer chain.



MISSING!

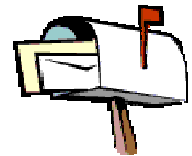
The electric pencil sharpener from the office workroom went missing some time ago. We've hunted all over the building in search of it—but to no avail. If you know where it went, please let us know and solve the mystery! If you borrowed it, please return it. Thanks.

Letters from our mailbox

Dear Friends,

It was such a nice surprise to receive the alter flowers. Needless to say they are very beautiful and really helped my spirits along with all the cards and prayers. I am looking forward to Spring and to be in better health. Thank you for all your support and caring.

Barbara McWhirter



Family Footnotes



Lorraine Keeney, Barbara McWhirter, Barbara Simpson, Betsy Broome (Peg Welch's daughter), and Berta Snady (Lory McCoy's mother).

Opportunities for Getting Involved in Our Church

There are over 150 people filling the various offices, Ministry Teams, and Task Forces that make our church work. That means there is plenty of room for YOU to play a role in this church community. Please take a look at these brief outlines of different opportunities and think about where you might like to contribute. We would love to have you involved – and we need you!

There are 13 Ministry Teams at the heart of all our activities. Some ask you to officially be a church member but many are open to volunteers of all interests and experiences. See if any of them interest you and then sign up with a Nominating Team member at coffee hour, speak with one of the Ministers, contact the church office, or make a note on the pew pad during worship. Our Nominating Team members are Marylouise Gamache (245-9914) and Bernie Hawes (437-1860). Contact the church office at office@bccucc.org or 246-0111. We look forward to hearing from you.



What follows is an alphabetical list of the teams with a brief description of what they do and how often they meet.

Buildings & Grounds Team

The team is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and improvements to all church properties and oversees our custodial staff. It is looking for people who want hands-on experiences and enjoy tending to our facilities. The team usually meets on the second Monday night of each month.

Chancel Team

Working with the Deacons, this team is specifically responsible for the provision, maintenance and care of our sanctuary. It finds donors for the altar flowers for each week's worship and arranges delivery of those flowers to people following the service. Most recently it purchased battery candles for use at the Christmas Eve services. The team meets on an as-needed basis, often after church on a Sunday.

Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team

CEYM is responsible for church school, intergenerational program events, and oversight

(Continued on page 33)

(Continued from page 32)

of youth groups and activities. It is a very creative, adventurous, forward-thinking group that meets monthly, usually after church on a Sunday. It is concerned with life-long learning for our community of faith. The team works closely with Andrea and Elizabeth.

Deacons

This group is especially concerned with working with Jeff and Elizabeth on the worship life of our church community. Its members advise on worship, assist with the sacraments of baptism and communion, manage the Deacons' Fund which supports those in need locally, and provide guidance and learning opportunities for important issues. Too often people think this is a team reserved for wise, long-term members of the church but in reality they are looking for caring people interested in spiritual care and faith formation. It meets on the first Monday of each month.

Endowment and Investment Team

The team oversees the development and management of our Endowment funds and looks for people knowledgeable in such areas. It meets as needed, usually in the evening.

Finance Team

The team works with the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary in preparing and administering the church budget. It looks for people with some expertise in financial matters and meets monthly at the convenience of its members.

Justice & Witness Team

A wonderful place for those concerned about the mission and outreach of our church – how we respond to the larger world. The team hosts programs and leads educational programming within our church to expand our people's minds about social justice issues, challenge their generosity, and offer opportunities for action. The team meets monthly.

Membership Team

This is a fun group of people whose job is to make new people feel welcome in our church community. It tries to identify needs, help people get acquainted, and provides ways for people to learn more about our church so they will get involved in our church life. It also finds people to be Greeters on Sunday mornings. This group has a monthly evening meeting and is especially desirous to get people new to our church with new ideas.

(Continued on page 34)

(Continued from page 33)

Music Team

This is especially for those interested in, or curious about, music as it relates to the ministry of our church. The group works with Jeff, Elizabeth, and our Music Director, Marina, to enrich the music ministry of our church – supporting our choirs but also very much looking at ways to further enrich the role of music in our faith life. It is responsible for the church's music staff and our instruments. This group is looking to be revitalized so the door is wide open for newcomers. It will meet at the convenience of participants.

Nominating Team

This team is responsible for matching the gifts of our community with the needs of our church. It involves advertising the work of the Ministry Teams as well as special task forces and projects. The team meets as needed but mostly February thru May at members' convenience.

Personnel Team

This team develops compensation, benefits, personnel policies and annual reviews of all church paid staff. It helps to have some HR experience but also a passion for working with people. The team meets as needed.

Stewardship Team

This team looks for people with innovative minds and energetic bodies to educate and assist people in our church community to give generously of their time, talents and resources so our church can do God's work in the world. Typically they meet more frequently in the spring and fall but try to meet regularly during the year.

Ushering Team

The ushers welcome people into the sanctuary, hand out bulletins for worship, clean up the sanctuary following worship, and secure the building. The ushers are currently divided into 8 teams. They rarely have meetings but communicate via email and phone. The ushers are always looking for volunteers.



Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.
461 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806

Telephone: (401) 246-0111

E-mail: office@bccucc.org

Website: www.bccucc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bccucc

Senior Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen	jeff@bccucc.org
Associate Minister:	The Rev. Elizabeth D. Barnum	elizabeth@bccucc.org
Organist/Choir Director:	Marina Zabinski	
Office Administrator:	Christine Wallis	office@bccucc.org
Office Assistant:	Patricia Stoddard	pat@bccucc.org
Financial Secretary:	Patricia Stoddard	pat@bccucc.org
Christian Education Assistant:	Andrea Bullard	andrea@bccucc.org
Custodians:	Jack Salvaggio, Ken York, Jim Salvaggio, Paul Dziedzic	



*The Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
is a Christian community that worships God, embraces all people,
ministers to one another, works for justice and peace,
and renders loving service to God's world.*