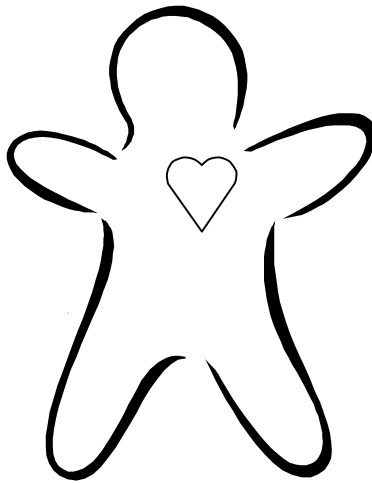


A Guide to
Christian Education &
Youth Ministry at BCCUCC
2011-2012



The Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.
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.

Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
461 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806
office@bccucc.org www.bccucc.org
401.246.0111

2

Senior Minister	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen jeff@bccucc.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Elizabeth D. Barnum elizabeth@bccucc.org
Christian Education Coordinator	Andrea Terni Bullard andrea@bccucc.org
Organist/Choir Director	Marina Zabinski marinazab62@yahoo.com
Office Administrator	Christine Wallis office@bccucc.org
Financial Secretary	Patricia Stoddard pat@bccucc.org

2

Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team Members

Kristen Westmoreland	Lynne Lehman
Louise House	Greg Knight
Betsy Restituyo	Carol Strakosch
Laina Caesar	Laurie Dubel
John Loerke, Amy Gorman, Ginger Stabach (ex gratia)	

2

Extra copies of this guide: Extra copies of this guide are available online (www.bccucc.org) or at the church office. If you'd like to share one with a friend, please let us know and we'll be happy to pass along more copies for you to share.

CEYM Mission Statement

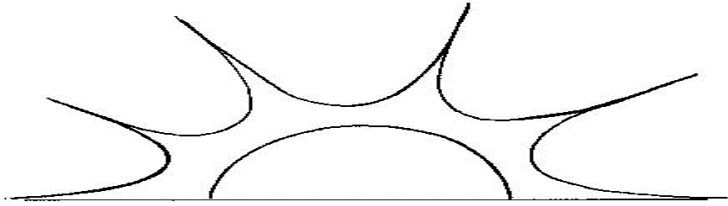
The purpose of the work of the Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team of the Barrington Congregational Church UCC is to provide a safe space for children, youth and adults to:

- worship and wonder
- play and pray
- share and serve
- learn, lament, laugh and LOVE!

We seek to create community where children experience acceptance and belonging. We are dedicated to providing a place where young people can develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally into all God calls them to be now and in the future.

Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team Goals for Educating our Children and Youth

- Nursery: Loving care is provided to all children ages 0-3 years.
- Pre-K through 6th grade: All children will wonder about core stories from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), New Testament, and the origins of Christian traditions, including the sacraments of Baptism and Communion through the Godly Play program. Older children will also have the opportunity to explore additional Godly Play Enrichment lessons that provide more detail and depth.
- Bibles are provided at the end of Grade 4
- 7th-8th Grades: Our Seekers program focuses on faith formation and spirited discussion.
- Youth in grade 6-8 are encouraged to participate in Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (JPF) for service projects, social and faith development.
- Grade 9 (and up): Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward adulthood in which an individual takes responsibility for shaping his/her own values and faith. Senior Pilgrim fellowship (SPF) is also available for service projects, social and faith development.
- Grades 10-12: Youth who have completed confirmation are encouraged to participate in SPF, volunteer opportunities and mission outreach by assisting in the nursery and classrooms, with CEYM events and by preparing for and participating in mission trips.



August 2011

Christian Education of young people involves partnerships between many individuals: parents, church members, children and youth, lay leaders, ministers, and staff. While faith education happens every day at home, we also know how important it is that Sunday mornings anchor children, youth, and families in faith.

During the 2011-2012 program year, we'll continue to deepen our exploration of Godly Play for all ages. We've added a fourth classroom for our oldest Godly Play students to wonder and work with stories from what are called the 'deeper shelves' in the room. Opportunities also abound for our youth: Confirmation classes, retreats & trips, service projects & social activities. All are welcome.

See you at church!

With joy,

Rev. Elizabeth Barnum
Associate Minister

Andrea Bullard
C.E. Coordinator

Sunday Mornings at BCCUCC

GENERAL INFORMATION

Church School Registration

We request that a registration form be secured for EACH CHILD who participates in our CEYM programs. If you registered your child last year, you'll only need to update & initial your current form on a Sunday morning during September. To register a child for the first time, please obtain a registration form from the church office or download from the website (www.bccucc.org). The information you provide helps us provide safe and welcoming programs for children and youth. Thank you!

Gathering Sunday – Sunday, September 11th

10:00 a.m. Worship Service for All Ages!

Following worship, there will be a

Church School Registration & All Church Picnic

Regular Church School classes will begin on September 18th.

How Church School Happens

- Come on Sunday morning for 10:00 a.m. worship;
- Bring children 4 or older to worship for the first 15 minutes; parents bring younger children directly to Nursery prior to 10:00;
- After the “Time for Children”, **the children will meet their teachers or assistants in the vestry downstairs and be escorted to the Education Building;**
- Church school lessons finish at approximately 11:10 a.m. to allow time for parents to transition from worship to coffee hour. **Parents are asked to pick-up children directly from classrooms** at 11:10 when the lesson has concluded. Children will not be released to roam the halls without parent pick-up. Please be mindful about not disturbing the class until the lesson has ended. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

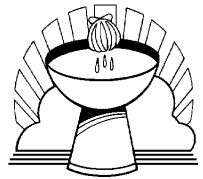


Communion Sundays

On the first Sunday of every month, we share communion together in the sanctuary. All children and adults are welcome to participate and receive communion. On the first Sunday of February, children will gather in the Library of the Education Building at 10:00 for a special children's communion service.

Baptism

Please contact the church office if you are interested in having your infant or child baptized.



Worship for All Ages in Sanctuary

There are some Sundays when Church School will not be offered. On these special Sundays, if other programming is not scheduled in the Education Building, you are invited and encouraged to bring your children to worship with you. **New this year:** We have created child-friendly *Worship*



Bags for use during these special services. Please share with others & return to the ushers at the conclusion of worship.

Offering

We believe it is important that children learn the importance of stewardship of church & community. Offering is received either in the gold boxes in the sanctuary at the start of Children's Time or in the gold boxes in your child's classroom. Each year, the proceeds go to an outreach effort of the church school children's choice. Children's offering envelopes will be available at the registration table on Gathering Sunday, in each classroom, and on the table in the Narthex. In recent years, church school offering has been dedicated to Heifer International and Pennies for Peace.

Is there a registration fee for Church School?

Everyone is welcome to participate in church school programs regardless of economic status, ability to contribute, or amount of pledge. We do not charge a registration fee. However, in addition to countless volunteer hours, church members and friends prayerfully discern an amount to contribute to the church in the form of a pledge to the annual budget (the budget includes building expenses, church staff, outreach, and education programs). Please call the church office if you'd like to begin making a pledge or would like to give an additional donation directly to Christian Education programs.

While we do not charge a monetary fee, we expect parents to participate in the classrooms in various volunteer capacities. **Every week takes 12 volunteers to conduct church school.** If every family were to fill at least several of these slots throughout the year, we would be blessed. Every volunteer slot is represented by a heart on our giant Person of God (aka POG). Please help us fill POG to capacity again this year! For volunteer training information, please see the *Volunteering at BCCUCC* page at the end of this handbook.

Nursery Care ~ Birth to Three Years Old

Christian nurture is provided every Sunday morning in our nursery for the youngest among us. (Please note that nursery volunteers will find parents if a diaper needs to be changed or for any other reason deemed necessary.)



SING & CELEBRATE CHOIR

BCCUCC has one children's choir for children in grades 1-5, but also welcomes older children who want to sing. This is a wonderful way for young people to learn to sing in a choir and to actively participate in the worship service. Rehearsals for the Sing & Celebrate Choir are immediately after the worship service.

For more information please contact either Kate Colby and/or the Choir Director, Marina Zabinski.



GODLY PLAY

PreK through Grade 6

New this year: another Godly Play classroom & new stories!

Godly Play teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence & liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Godly Play...

- ...is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture.
- ...is based on long established, tried and tested approaches.
- ...encourages participants to make meaning for themselves by inviting them into stories and providing the opportunity for them to connect the stories with their personal experience.
- ...is a non-coercive way to encourage people to move into larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering questions and open-ended response time.
- ...values process, openness and discovery.
- ...respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God.

Visit www.godlyplayfoundation.org to learn more.

Parents & volunteer teachers are invited to attend
“A Day of Godly Play” workshop at Rumford, RI
on Saturday, Sept. 17th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please speak with Elizabeth or Andrea for more information.

We also hope to sponsor a workshop here at
BCCUCC in the late winter/early spring.

SEEKERS

A Sunday Morning Program for Grades 7-8
focusing on faith exploration,
spirited discussion, and service to others.

During 2011-2012, this Sunday morning program will bring an emphasis on learning about and celebrating the major world religions – including the wide diversity within each religious tradition including Christianity. The religious landscape of the U.S. and globe continues to change rapidly and its diversity is immense. With an ecumenical and interfaith focus, while also exploring core elements of the U.C.C., this program is intended to grow curious, respectful, and inclusive seekers and believers. We'll learn about the beliefs, rituals, prayers, worship, and people of various traditions worldwide.

Each year, the Seekers group rotates between service activities, Nooma (www.nooma.com) series discussion, and an exploration of world religions.



JPF Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (aka Middle School Youth Group)

Grades 6-8

Meets twice a month, on Friday evenings or weekend afternoons. Time together will include social activities, service projects, and faith development activities. See the monthly calendar in the *Bridge* newsletter and stay tuned for email updates. Please contact Leslie Peck or Elizabeth Barnum for more information and to be added to the email list. All are welcome. **The first meeting will be at the church on Friday, September 9th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**



CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Grade 9 & up

Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward adulthood in which an individual takes responsibility for shaping their own values and faith. They also discover how to express these values in daily life, affirming the vows of Baptism. This program for 9th graders will explore these themes together and their roles in our lives of faith: God, Jesus, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, Church History, the U.C.C. We'll also be bringing an increasing awareness of what it means to live in a world of multiple expressions of faith. We'll celebrate this diversity while we question, explore, relate, connect, listen, and share together as people of faith.

This year, the Confirmation program is facilitated by Elizabeth Barnum, with support from parents & members & Jeff Larsen.

The first meeting is **Sunday, September 25th** from **11:30 – 12:30** and **parents are asked to attend this first session.**

Save the dates!

Optional Nonviolence Training Retreat at Irons

Homestead (A success last year!)

Fri., January 20 (5 p.m.) – Sat., January 21 (5 p.m.)

Confirmation Retreat at Craigville, Cape Cod:

Fri. March 2 (4:30 p.m.) – Saturday, March 3 (6:45 p.m.)

Confirmation Sunday: May 13, 2012

**If your child is a 9th grader and you haven't yet received an introductory letter and full schedule of meetings, please contact Elizabeth Barnum at elizabeth@bccucc.org. **

**SPF Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship
(aka High School Youth Group Activities & Programs)**

In addition to the 9th grade Confirmation Program, 10th-12th graders are invited to participate in volunteering in church school classrooms on Sunday mornings and all fundraisers for Mission Trips (for instance: Band Jams, Dinner Fundraisers, Car Washes, etc...). We are currently looking for adult volunteers willing to lead this group's social & service activities. Contact Elizabeth for more information.

Non Violence Training Retreat

at Irons Homestead this fall for High School Students

Our Whole Lives (Gr. 7-9 & Gr. 10-12)

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The National Evaluation & Promotion Project in which we'd been selected to participate has been delayed. But we're still hoping to offer the program soon once we have secured funding and several volunteers can be trained. More details TBA!

Interfaith Mission Trip 2012 (Gr. 9-12 & Adults)

with BCCUCC & Temple Habonim

Co-led by Rev. Jeff Larsen & Rabbi Andrew Klein

Location TBA & Approximate Dates: April 14-21, 2012

Limited spots; preference given to upperclassmen. First meeting for interested youth and parents will be **Sunday, Sept. 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the library**, following the 5:00 family potluck.



U.C.C. National Youth Event 2012

July 10-13, 2012

Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN

Imagine what's possible when 3,000 youth come together!
Please contact Elizabeth Barnum ASAP if you'd like to go!

Please refer to *The Bridge* newsletter, Ennouncements & weekly bulletin for updates and new information.

VOLUNTEERING AT BCCUCC CEYM PROGRAMS

It really does 'take a village' to nurture Christian faith in children and young people. We hope and expect that parents, caregivers, and other interested adults in the church community will offer their time and talents throughout the program year. We help provide you with the information and resources that you'll need to enjoy the experience and grow in faith.

Every volunteer that works with children & youth is asked to fill out a Volunteer Application Form. Please contact the church office for more information.

Parent Orientation

After worship on **Sunday, September 18th** all parents of current church school children from PreK – Grade 6 will be invited to a **Godly Play Open House** with their children in the classrooms. Watch your email inbox and weekly bulletins for more information.

Teacher Training

****REQUIRED OF ALL VOLUNTEERS
working with children and youth****

Childcare provided at all sessions.

Pick one date below and plan to attend:

Saturday, Sept. 10 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

OR Tuesday, Sept. 13 7-8 p.m.

OR Sunday, Sept. 25 6-7 p.m.

(after the 5:00 Family Dinner Potluck)

*Stay tuned for more information throughout the year via email,
The Bridge newsletter and during worship.*

SAFETY AT BCCUCC

Fire Drill Procedure

- Feel the door for heat. If cool, open slightly and observe corridor conditions.
- Take a head count and have children line up.
- Proceed to the nearest exit as outlined in the fire escape plan in the classroom.*
- If there is smoke, stay as close to the floor as possible.
- Make sure that everyone stays together.
- Exit the building and proceed to the parking lot.
- Do a follow-up head count.
- Hold all children until the parents have come to pick them up.

Safe Church Policies

- Two Adult Rule: No Teacher or Aide should place him/herself in a compromising situation by being alone with a child or children. At least one Teacher and one Aide must be present in the classroom every Sunday.
- No Teacher or Aide shall be alone with a child in a bathroom with the door closed. If a Teacher or Aide accompanies a child to the bathroom, they should remain outside the bathroom while the child is inside. The bathroom door must remain open at all times.
- If a child needs to leave the classroom for any reason, they must pair up with another child of the same gender. No child is permitted to walk in the halls alone.

* You can find the Fire Drill Procedures and Safe Church Policies on the wall in each classroom.