



December 2014  
& January 2015

Dear Friends,

Your life is crazy enough without the church adding more stress. It is my hope that coming here on Sunday mornings will be a break in the drills of life, an oasis in the desert of demands that you face daily. True, church should also stimulate and challenge us all, but especially in Advent I hope you find some peace and refreshment.



I have prepared an Advent series entitled, "Big questions that little people ask" that will explore connecting the innocence of children's wisdom with that of adults. I believe that this season is not only the season for children but for the child within us all. Admittedly I have set each week upon a question that our children may ask...and those are questions that come out of a blessed life for the most part. Our children can ask different questions than children in refugee camps or living in conditions of starvation, as many children in this world do. And yet, some of these questions are universal.

- Nov 30 Advent 1 "Are we there yet?" Looking at Jeremiah 33: 14-16 and the nature of hope;
- Dec 7 Advent 2 "When can we open our presents?" Luke 2: 7 Can we ever grasp the notion of a baby as a gift to humankind?
- Dec 14 Advent 3 (Jazz Sunday) "Do I have to?" Luke 1: 26-37 Did Mary really want to take this on? What if she said, 'no'?
- Dec 21 Advent 4, "Why?" Luke 2: 1-5 The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem while 9 months pregnant

Come and honor this holy season with us.

Peace to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeff'.

#### DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Chris Brady (star deacon),  
Cheryl Muth, Greg Voigt,  
and Liz White.

#### DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Stephanie Edwards (star deacon),  
Susan Rotblat-Walker,  
Pat Rude, Susan Seader,  
and Francis Seader.

*In the event of a pastoral emergency after hours, if you cannot reach Jeff (247-1787 home) or Brendan (318-2447) please call on one of the deacons.*

#### Who volunteered to light the Advent Candles at 5 pm on Christmas Eve?

On Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> someone spoke to Jeff at coffee hour and volunteered to light the Advent candles at the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. Unfortunately, he didn't write it down and can't remember who it was. (Tip: Jeff has conversations with many people at coffee hour so it's always best to send a follow up e-mail to him for something like this!).

It turns out that the need is for the 9 p.m. service and not the earlier service so Jeff needs to know if the volunteer would like to do it at the later service instead.

Would the person who volunteered please contact Jeff  
a.s.a.p. at 246-0111 ext 103 or [Jeff@bccucc.org](mailto:Jeff@bccucc.org) Thanks.



Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

The deadline for submission of articles to be included in the February *Bridge* will be Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Services for December 2014 & January 2015

December 7	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion, Church School
December 14	10 a.m.	<i>Jazz Christmas Sunday</i> Worship Service with Jazz Music, Church School
December 21	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Pageant Rehearsal for Church School children during Church School time



**5:00 p.m. Family friendly service with Christmas Pageant for all ages**

**9:00 p.m. Service of Carols and Readings with music from the Adult Choir**

**11:30 pm Contemplative Service with Communion**



December 28	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only (No church school)
January 4	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion, Church School
January 11	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
	10 a.m.—Noon	OWL session, Library
	3 pm	Installation Service for Rev. Brendan Curran, Sanctuary
January 18	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only (No church school)
January 25	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
	10 a.m.—Noon	OWL session, Library

*Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8 unless otherwise indicated  
Nursery Care available every Sunday morning for infants and children aged 3 and under  
Handicapped Accessible*

### Christmas Eve 11:30 pm Service

Join us for the 11:30 p.m. vigil service this Christmas Eve. This will be a quieter service with communion including a time for lighting candles and offering prayers together. All who might enjoy a contemplative late night service are welcome!

The service will be led by the Rev. Brendan Curran.



### OFFICE CLOSINGS in December & January

The church office will be **CLOSED** on Wed., Thurs., and Fri., Dec. 24, 25 & 26 and Thurs., Jan. 1.

The office will be **OPEN** from **9 a.m. - Noon only** on Mon, Tues and Wed., Dec 29, 30 and 31, and Fri, Jan 2.

The office will also be **CLOSED** on Mon., Jan. 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.

Tot's Cooperative Preschool Wreath & Bake Sale

BCCUCC Parking Lot

Saturday, December 6 10 a.m.— 1 p.m.



## From our Associate Minister .....



The Christmas narrative in the gospel of Luke begins, “In those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that the world should be taxed.” Well, in THESE days, during advent we might find the weeks to be very taxing on our individual worlds indeed with even more time demands and responsibilities placed on our already busy lives. It might feel like so much is asked of us. The weeks leading up to Christmas and New Year’s might seem like a marathon rush full of making plans for the holidays, buying gifts, going to holiday parties, putting up decorations, etc. For some, the holidays might also be a reminder of what is lacking, magnifying the emotional stresses we already might be carrying. In a season of consumerism the voice of the prince of peace who reminds us, “wherever your treasure is there your heart will be also,” might actually be a hard sell. Just as the Christmas narrative of the light of God appearing in a moment of turmoil illustrates an instant of great peace and great conflict, of heaven and earth colliding together, we experience this season as a complicated time of both chaos and quietness.

Advent invites us to make space to let the quietness be louder than the chaos. For most of the year we reach out to God, but in coming to us as a baby, God reaches out to us during this time. Before a baby is born you make a room for them. Our main job during advent is to make room for the baby! During Advent we learn together how to make room in our hearts so the child of God can be born there. In a busy time I invite you to see spending time at church during advent as a way to, “make room,” a way to cultivate balance and wholeness. We “make a room,” when we prioritize community. Advent directs our attention in all different directions! Our eyes are lifted upwards by angelic voices to the stars reminding us once again, “Be not afraid!” Maybe some night this month, take a moment to go outside and look up! Our advent scripture lessons teach us “Watch!” “Listen!” We are making a room for the Christ child by coming to church during advent. We are making a room by learning together how to let God open our eyes, our ears, and hearts. Even amidst complicated times we can find peace in our souls and joy with each other when we make a room together and learn how to hear the silence of the Christ child asleep on the lap of the mother as being louder and infinitely more powerful than the chaos of our world. So let us prepare together to let the sound of the sleeping baby interrupt the busyness, drawing compassion from our hearts, causing us to nurture the spirit, inviting us to a peace and a joy that can carry us into the new year.

Peace and Joy to you,

*Brendan*

### SACRED CONVERSATIONS IN ADVENT

On Monday Evenings during Advent - Monday, December 1, 8, 15 & 22 - Brendan will be facilitating a sacred conversations group at 7 pm in the library. Meetings will consist of lighting the advent candles, reading a brief reflection, sharing together about the weekly conversation topic, as well as sharing Joys and Concerns. The intention is to provide a contemplative and intimate space for reflection and sharing to nurture our spiritual lives together during what can be a stressful time of year. All are welcome for any or all Monday meetings!



*ALL ARE INVITED  
to the Installation Service of  
The Rev. Brendan J. Curran  
as Associate Minister  
of Barrington Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
on Sunday, January 11th, 2015  
at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary of BCCUCC.  
A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.*

## Christmas Pageant

We are calling all shepherds, angels, kings, and prophets... and maybe a Mary and a sheep or two as well! The whole congregation this year is invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant which will take place at the 5 pm service on Christmas Eve!

This year's pageant will be a giant puppet extravaganza! No, really! it will literally be giant! Mary is 12 feet tall! At least 23 brave souls are needed to participate so we can tell the Christmas story in this way and make it happen together! It would be wonderful to have involvement from people of all ages. This is going to be a blast! We hope that you can participate!

We will rehearse immediately after church on Sunday, December 21st. Rehearsal will end by 12:45 pm at the latest! There will be another rehearsal for the pageant before the 5 pm service on the 24th at 3:30 pm. Children from the church school who will be the chorus of angels and shepherds will rehearse during church school on the 21st and are also invited to join the rehearsal at 4:30 pm. on Christmas Eve.

If one of these roles on the list speaks to you please contact Associate Minister, Brendan Curran as soon as possible or you might be recruited! 401-318-2447 or [Brendan@bccucc.org](mailto:Brendan@bccucc.org). Bring your energy, your personality, and your loud speaking and singing voices!

### CAST

*(The following characters should be age 12 and up)*

**Narrator**

**Prophets (3)**

**Townspeople (2)**

**Angel Puppet (3)** (all puppeteers come dressed as angels)

**3 Sheep** (3 able bodied people willing to make three sheep puppet-suits come alive. We need lively sheep with strong personalities! Be able to baaaahh! We need one large adult sized sheep, a medium sized person sheep, and a little sheep!)

**3 Shepherds** (We need three people to shepherd the sheep! You can bring your bathrobe and we will provide the shepherd masks and the sheep!)

**Star**

**Innkeepers (3)**

**Mary**

**Joseph**

**Wise Men/Kings (3)** Three strong people able to operate a three kings puppet. We need three people to be inside the puppet!



*The following roles are for children age 4 and up*

**The angel chorus and crowd of shepherds** will be performed by our church school children.

They will practice during church school time on Sunday, December 21st, and then again on Christmas Eve at 4:30 pm. Those who want to join the shepherds and angels by dressings as an angel or shepherd for the 5pm service of course are welcome!

To volunteer for any of these roles, please contact Associate Minister,  
Brendan Curran at 401-318-2447 or [brendan@bccucc.org](mailto:brendan@bccucc.org)

## Jazz Christmas Sunday

Our worship service on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** will feature Christmas music in a jazz style. Our Sing and Celebrate Choir will be singing, as well as our Adult Choir. Marina Zabinski, our organist/choir director is an excellent jazz pianist so if you've never heard her play jazz, you're in for a treat! She will be joined by other musicians in what should be a wonderful worship experience.



## Christmas Eve readers needed

A couple more volunteers are needed to read scripture at the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

If you are interested please contact Jeff (246 -0111 ext 103 or [Jeff@bccucc.org](mailto:Jeff@bccucc.org)).



During the weeks of Advent you will find in the pew racks an envelope marked "Staff Christmas Bonus."

We are blessed to have wonderful people working here who give more hours to our church than expected or than compensated for. We invite you to join with us in giving them a gift during these holidays. Please be generous. Your gifts will be divided up among eight different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Coordinator, Marina at our organ, and Jack, Jimmy, Paul & John on the custodial staff - percentage-wise according to the number of hours they work.

Thank you ahead of time, Jeff and Brendan



The Mission and Justice Ministry Team is having a "Giving Tree" again this year, with envelopes for donations of various amounts to apply to gift cards to supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, utilities, toy stores, Wal-Mart, shopping malls, etc. to help needy families afford the necessities, and also allow them to have money for gifts for their families and themselves. The tree will be in Fellowship Hall at coffee hour and donations will be taken each Sunday through December 14.

The gift cards purchased will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Mission and Justice Ministry Team is again sponsoring a **Mitten Tree**.

You are asked to please fill the Christmas tree in the narthex of the church with **new hats, mittens and gloves of all sizes** - for **children, teenagers and adults** by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

The items will be donated to various local agencies for distribution to those in need.

Both handmade and purchased items are most welcome.

*A warm thank you to all who can help.*



## Additional food items needed for the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, Dec 13

Our church will be providing and serving the meal at the Christian Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket on **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** and a few more items are needed, namely **bags of lettuce, tomatoes, and fruit (oranges and bananas.)**

If you can donate any of these foods either contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net) or use signup genius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d48a5ab2da57-december>

## Junior Youth Group for Grades 6-8



It's that time again to spread some holiday cheer. The Junior and Senior Youth Groups will be joining forces to carol at two local nursing homes!

When: **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
Time: 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Where: Starting destination is the church library.  
Pick up is at 173 Rumstick Road, Barrington.

Full itinerary is a brief warm-up at church, caroling at East Bay Manor and Atria Bay Spring, ending with a potluck and Yankee Swap at the Stabach's home, 173 Rumstick Rd., Barrington.

Please bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the swap, and a dessert or appetizer to share.

**RSVP** to the Junior Youth Group leaders at [bccjyg@gmail.com](mailto:bccjyg@gmail.com)

\* \* \*

**Looking ahead....**There are no scheduled events in January for JYG but please mark your calendars for our annual Super Bowl Sunday tubing event at Yawgoog Valley Ski Area on Sunday, February 1st.

\* \* \*

**Looking back.....**17 youth attended the JYG outing in November to Skyzone in East Providence. They had a great time as can be seen by their smiles and sweaty faces!!



## Senior Youth Group for Grades 9-12

Attention High School students! For those who are prevented from coming to church because of heavy homework loads, you are invited to come to church the evening of Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. We will meet in Room 9. The first hour will be an hour for us to work or study together. From 7-8 p.m. we will make Christmas cards together! This is a way to be together and support each other during the busy Christmas season! Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided!

The Senior Youth Group is teaming up with the Junior Youth Group for caroling on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (for information see above)

The Senior Youth Group will meet for a pot luck and mission planning meeting on Sundays, January 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. in Room 9

Contact Brendan Curran to RSVP or with questions about any of these activities at  
(401) 318-2447 or 246-0111 x 104 or [Brendan@bccucc.org](mailto:Brendan@bccucc.org)



### OWL Sessions

Our Whole Lives—  
Sexuality & Our Faith

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**  
from **10 a.m.—Noon** in the **library**.

### CONFIRMATION

**Sundays, December 7<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
from **6—8 pm**: Confirmation Class in the  
library

**Friday—Saturday, January 23<sup>th</sup>—24<sup>th</sup>**  
Confirmation Retreat at Craigsville. Details to follow.





## Our Whole Lives-Sexuality and our Faith

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

### LOOKING AHEAD

The third year of Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Sexuality & Our Faith is underway. We have a terrific team of facilitators and a dedicated group of participants and families that are making this a meaningful and worthwhile commitment.

Our hope is to again offer the program to 10<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> graders next year. Families of rising 10<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to start thinking about possible participation.

Any potential volunteer facilitators for both age groups (Gds 7 – 8 & Gds 10 – 12) are invited to speak with Andrea Bullard, Kristen Westmoreland, Ray Zarlengo or Brendan Curran to learn more about the program and training possibilities during the spring and summer of 2015.

## “You Can Wait”

Delayed gratification may be one of the most important life skills to teach our children. In our “instant” digital world this skill has grown tougher to teach, yet more important to process.



- Mark off days on the calendar to watch time pass, recognizing that anticipation is fun and rewarding
- Redirect focus from something they want to something they can *give*
- Provide allowances that require saving a portion that cannot be spent until it has accumulated to a set amount
- Encourage sports like golf and cross country running to develop an appreciation for long term rewards.

### Parenting *is* Prevention

Tip #72 — kindly offered by the BAY Team  
The Barrington Adult Youth Team Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
[www.thebayteam.org](http://www.thebayteam.org)

## A Voice for Victims Remembering Those Lost to Gun Violence

A call for remembrance and resolve. This event, near the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Sandy Hook, will commemorate gun violence victims.

Thursday, December 11 7:00 - 8:00 pm

First Unitarian Church of Providence, 1 Benevolent Street, Providence

The program will include:

- \* Remarks from Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence President Jerry Belair; Providence Mayor-Elect Jorge Elorza; Central Falls Mayor James Diossa; Providence Police Chief Hugh Clements; Rev. Dr. Don Anderson (Executive Minister, RI State Council of Churches); and Rabbi Sarah Mack (Rabbi, Temple Beth-El and President, Board of Rabbis of Greater RI),
- \* Personal stories from gun violence survivors,
- \* Performance by Gordon School Handbell Ensemble.

Co-sponsored by our partners: American Academy of Pediatrics (RI Chapter), Bishops United Against Gun Violence, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Day One - The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center, Humanists of Rhode Island, Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island: Community Relations Council, NAACP Providence Branch, National Council of Jewish Women, Newtown Action Alliance, OIC of Rhode Island, Peace RI, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Project: Night Vision, Providence Inner City Arts/ Roots Cultural Center, Religious Coalition for Violence Free Rhode Island, Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Rhode Island Council of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Rhode Island National Organization for Women – RI NOW, Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Rhode Island Progressive Democrats Association, Rhode Island State Council of Churches, Sandy Hook Promise, Sandy Hook School Team 26, SKL Memorial Foundation, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, Stop Handgun Violence, Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Habonim, The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, The Peace Flag Project, URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace





# Help Beautify Our Sanctuary for Christmas

We invite you to make a donation to the  
*Chancel Fund*

Money donated to this fund is used to help beautify the Sanctuary – including the purchase of poinsettias and other plants to decorate the church this Christmas. Some of the donations will also be used to purchase plants that will be delivered by the Deacons before Christmas to our homebound, sick or recently bereaved in our congregation. The sanctuary will be decorated from before Christmas through Epiphany.

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 Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please complete the donation form below and return to the church office with your donation by Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 hosting coffee hour in Fellowship Hall following Sunday services. Thank you for your donation.

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## *Chancel Fund Donation - Christmas 2014*

See information above before completing this form

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 Christmas bulletin insert:

Given by .....  
*(please print clearly)*

In memory of .....  
.....

In thanksgiving for .....  
.....

In celebration of .....  
.....

***Please complete & return with your donation by Monday, December 15 Thank you for your donation.***

A SERVICE OF ADVENT  
LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

5:30 p.m.

St John's Episcopal Church  
191 County Road, Barrington

ALL ARE WELCOME



BCCUCC will host the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual

WINTER JAZZ CONCERT

sponsored by Barrington Preservation Society

featuring

The Barrington High School Jazz Ensemble

Barbara Hughes, Director

in the Sanctuary of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC

Friday, December 11, 2014 7:30 p.m. Admission \$5

Refreshments will be served at a reception after the concert.

The BHS Jazz Ensemble has been nationally recognized for its excellence. Their repertoire ranges from Big Band music of the 30's to Duke Ellington favorites. Our church has hosted this event for a number of years and it is always a lively and exciting evening for Jazz lovers of all ages.

Questions?

Contact Van Edwards at 245-9719 or [bvnedwards@gmail.com](mailto:bvnedwards@gmail.com)



THE BRISTOL COUNTY CHORUS will present its 34<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7, at 3 PM in St. Mary's Church, Wood St., Bristol. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Soloists are Ron Armilotto, LuAnn Harris, Pamela Spence-Bakker, Gordon Partington, David Harrington, and Michael DiMucci, cantor at St. Mary's Church. For information please call 253-8106.



Praying with Your Neighbors

Local Houses of Worship Open Their Doors to All

The members of the Barrington Interfaith Clergy Association strive to bring people of diverse faith traditions together and nurture our shared spiritual bond. We all benefit when people of different faith traditions (or no faith tradition) are able to share their beliefs and learn with and from one another.

Barrington is blessed with a vibrant collection of houses of worship, three of which are hosting open houses this year, welcoming everyone in to get a close up view of how they worship. Our plan is to have three other houses of worship do the same next year so that we can all experience the unique ways that others express their faith.

Everyone is invited to all of these open services regardless of your affiliation or non-affiliation. Here is the remainder of this year's schedule:



Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 7:30PM  
Sts. Matthew & Mark Episcopal Church - Celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany  
5 Chapel Road, Barrington RI 02806



Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 7:30PM  
St. James Lutheran Church - Contemporary Praise Service  
49 Middle Highway, Barrington RI 02806

Sponsored by the Barrington Interfaith Clergy Association:

Rev. Brendan Curran, Associate Minister, Barrington Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Patrick Greene, Saints Matthew and Mark Episcopal Church  
Rabbi Andrew Klein, Temple Habonim  
Rev. Jeffrey Larsen, Senior Minister, Barrington Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Byungmoo Lee, Barrington United Methodist Church  
Rev. Patrick Notley, Barrington Presbyterian Church  
Pastor Andrew Simon, St. James Lutheran Church



## Landscaping Update

Did you know that a few people have been working for quite awhile now to refresh the very nice landscape plan designed by Don Leighton several years ago around the education building? Mostly we have been working to reestablish the natural plant shapes and limit sizes without turning everything into “meat balls”. At the same time, we have removed and replaced plants damaged by storms, snow plows, insects and disease. The low hedge by the parking lot was removed and just recently a dead tree was removed and replaced with a Kousa dogwood and a “ring” of roses. More action is planned, but for this year, we’re about done.

Now we (the 80-year olds) need some help putting things to bed for the winter. The new trees (the ones beside the sanctuary included) need a really good drink before the ground freezes. Rainfall won’t do it! The deep mulch that’s there actually soaks up normal amounts of rain and prevents water from getting to the soil where it’s needed.



Before planting the dogwood and the roses, we had to remove the many day lilies and weeds that were there. We divided and replanted most of them in various places around the patio, but ran out of steam before we got to all of them. They are currently “heeled in” beside the white wall. They could be planted wherever a spot can be found once all the weeds and vines are removed near the play yard.

The pine tree in the large planter on the patio needs to have all dead wood removed. (Maybe, the whole tree!)

The beds of hosta and day lilies running beside the education building need to be cleaned up for the winter.

There are three euonymus bushes in front of the white wall that is the back of the library. The center one (smallest) needs to be dug up and moved about 6—8 feet in a straight line towards the dumpster. In the spring, we’ll plant more there to complete that section of our “new look”. The new and moved ones will be further from the building and in a more natural shape.

If there is anything you can do to help us out, please see Dick McWhirter, Dave Rogers, Paul Dennis or Carolyn Faulhaber to lend a hand. Any little bit will be greatly appreciated.

## CHRISTMAS FUND

**The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund** is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ. One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees—the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. During 2013, you provided gifts totaling \$1,545,076—an increase of about \$80,000 over the 2012 Offering. Thank You!

The goal for the 2014 Offering is to raise \$1,700,000 for the vital ministries of Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks. This year’s theme is *A Light is Drawing Near*.

**Christmas Fund envelopes will be included in the Sunday bulletin on December 21** for your use. Donations may also be sent directly to the church office. Please make checks payable to “Barrington Congregational Church” and mark the memo line “Christmas Fund”. Thank you.



## Church Cancellation Plans in Bad Weather



When the church service has to be cancelled due to bad weather, we will do our best to keep you informed. Information will appear on the cancellation lists of Channels 6 & 10 that scroll across the television screen—also available at [www.turnto10.com](http://www.turnto10.com) under ‘Closings’. The church office answering machine will include any cancellation announcements and we will also try to send out a mass e-mail and post it to Facebook and the church website [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org). (Note: all this is dependent upon there being power to use the technology needed!)



Dec 31<sup>st</sup> marks the half-way point of our fiscal year. Will your pledge be 50% paid?

## Some Special Events are happening in January.....

Your Mission and Justice Ministry Team presents.....



### “Putting the Brakes on Bullying”

With guest speaker **Kevin Robinson**  
Ten time X Games champion BMX rider  
and world record holder.

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Noon Fellowship Hall**

Kevin will share stories of his own successes and failures and how to address and overcome bullying and other challenges facing kids (and adults!).

*The event is free and open to the public so invite your friends and your children's friends!*

All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more info visit [www.krobfoundation.org](http://www.krobfoundation.org)



### All Church Luncheon and Turkey Trip Presentation

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

11:30 A.M.—12:45 P.M.

On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be an all-church luncheon with a program on the church trip to Turkey in October. Jeff Larsen will lead the discussion and show pictures but others on the trip will also be there to add their thoughts. The informal luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m., following coffee hour, and the program will end by 12:45 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

### A Fun Night Out and a Fundraiser All in One!

Join us for a preview performance of

#### "Seminar"

at 2nd Story Theatre  
28 Market Street, Warren

on **Saturday, January 24.**

The theater's bar opens at 7 pm.  
and the performance starts at 7:30 pm.



We have a block of 30 tickets reserved for our group, so invite your friends to come along!

Presented by 2nd Story Theatre, Seminar is a "smart, sexy, acerbic and provocative comedy about four aspiring young novelists who sign up for private writing classes with a renowned literary figure. Under his recklessly brilliant instruction, some thrive and others flounder. hearts are broken, and lives are forever changed."

Tickets for this fundraiser are \$20 each and **will be available at coffee hour in Fellowship Hall.** You can also email Chris Brady for tickets or further information ([cbradyri@aol.com](mailto:cbradyri@aol.com)).

The church will receive \$10 from the sale of each ticket. All proceeds will be donated to the Groden Center, that provides a wide range of services and support for children, adolescents and adults with autism and Aspergers Syndrome. For more information see their website at <http://www.grodencenter.org/>

*This event is sponsored by  
your Mission and Justice Ministry Team.*

There will be an **Adult Education Session** in Jan/Feb on "Paul and the 7 Churches of Revelations."

Date and time TBA.



Thank you to Blount Soups for donating all of the soups for the Senior Lunch held at the church on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks also to Jeff for his Turkey trip slide show after the meal. Special thanks go to Jane Tonn for all of her hard work organizing the event, and to all who helped her. It was very successful and was enjoyed by many of our senior church members and friends.

# Thank You! THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your overwhelming support of our Mobile Loaves and Fishes run on November 26, 2014. It was a blustery wet evening but many folks were counting on us to provide them with nourishment.

We are grateful to all of those who donated items, helped to prepare food, sort and organize clothes, load the truck, serve the hungry, unload the truck and provided fellowship to one another.

Thank you to our Deacons and Jeff who believe in this ministry, for their generosity.

For this run many gracious businesses also helped to make it a success. Blount Seafood provided Thanksgiving Everyday (Turkey) soup, which nourished body and soul. Tim Gorman of Bagels, etc donated an abundance of bagels. Dr. Larry Levin gave hundreds of toothbrushes.

A special debt of gratitude goes to Christine who keeps us focused and mindful of the details. Without whose help this process would never go as smoothly.

We are your grateful servants,

Liz (White), Jay and Phyllis (Buckley)



SYG making PB&J sandwiches to go out on the truck.

*Editor's note: A huge thank you to Phyllis, Liz, and Jay for all of their work with Mobile Loaves and Fishes and for organizing this MLF truck run from our church.*



## Help needed with Coffee Hour

Sign up at coffee hour .....or sign up electronically!

Our Ministry Teams still oversee coffee hour, but with their reduction in size and number, they need help from congregation members. Volunteers are being asked to sign up on a specific Sunday (convenient to them) to help by providing food, serving or clearing up.

There are **SIGNUP SHEETS AT THE WELCOME TABLE** at the back of Fellowship Hall for individuals and families to sign up on a Sunday that will work for them. Or contact Jane Tonn [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net) (401) 289-2349 who is chair of the Membership Ministry Team.

There is also an **ON-LINE SIGN UP** at the following link where you can sign up for a Sunday that works for you

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0B48AFA82BA0FF2-bccucc1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0B48AFA82BA0FF2-bccucc1)

To sign up on-line you need to create a SignUpGenius account which is very easy to do. The only information that is needed is your first and last name and e-mail address. That way your name can appear correctly on the sign up sheet, and you can receive an e-mail reminder a few days prior to the Sunday that you volunteered to help.





The **Dine-Out Group** will eat at

**Bluewater Grill**

32 Barton Ave., Barrington

on **Friday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 pm**

All are welcome (singles and couples).

**RSVPs are required by Wed, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**

to Sue Black at 245-2772 or

[sueandjimblack@gmail.com](mailto:sueandjimblack@gmail.com)

**Book Group**

meets at 7 p.m.

at **The Coffee Depot**

501 Main Street, Warren.

**All are welcome!**

**Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

***Good Poems***

edited by Garrison Keillor

Good Poems includes poems about lovers, children, failure, everyday life, death, and transcendence. It features the work of classic poets, such as Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Robert Frost, as well as the work of contemporary greats such as Howard Nemerov, Charles Bukowski, Donald Hall, Billy Collins, Robert Bly, and Sharon Olds. It's a book of poems for anybody who loves poetry whether they know it or not.

**Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

***The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*** by Fannie Flagg.

Alabama sweetheart Sookie Poole has been a loving wife, a caring mother, and, most important, a patient daughter. Her formidable yet ailing mother never seemed to approve of her as a child. Now approaching 60, Sookie receives some unexpected news about her past that has her questioning both her family history and her mother's constant cold shoulder.

For more info on the Book Group contact

Helen Schall at 245-4724 or

[helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenschall@hotmail.com)

'**These Days**' *Daily Devotions for Living by Faith* are made available free to the congregation by your Deacons and anyone is welcome to take a copy from the sideboard in the vestry hallway, the rack outside the church office, or at the back of Fellowship Hall. Copies for Oct - Dec, 2014 and Jan - Mar 2015 are currently available.

The **Women's Faith Group**

will not have regular meetings in December

but will meet for a Holiday lunch

on **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** at **12:30 p.m.**

at **Trafford Restaurant**, 285 Water Street, Warren.

*R.S.V.P. to Jane Tonn (289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net)).*

They will meet again on **Thursdays, January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **1:30—3 p.m.** in the **library** when they will read and discuss *Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou.

The group welcomes all women from BCCUCC as well as from other churches and faith traditions.

For more information about the group contact

Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or [chl2299@aol.com](mailto:chl2299@aol.com),

or Nancy Martin at 273-1078 or [nancy.martin3@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.martin3@verizon.net)



**Knitting for Others (and Crocheting)**

will meet **Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **7 - 9 p.m.**

at the home of Marion Fodor, 12 Katie Drive, Warren

and **Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** from **7 - 9 p.m.**

at the home of Liz Rosenholm, 15 Freemont Avenue, Barrington

Members of the group work on a variety of different projects for different causes including prayer shawls, helmet liners for soldiers, hats for newborns, and chemo caps. Patterns are available. New ideas for knitting projects are always welcome and so are new knitters (and crocheters). For more information contact Mary Lou Slicker at 245-0085 or [rislick@fullchannel.net](mailto:rislick@fullchannel.net)

**The Memory Impairment Support Group**

will meet on **Tuesdays, December 9 & 23** and **January 13 & 27,**

from **1—2:30 p.m.** in the church library.

The group is open to both caregivers and patients and is for individuals, couples, and families looking for a safe space to share experiences and coping strategies for dealing with the variety of changes and losses involved with memory impairment diagnoses such as Alzheimer's and dementia. For more information contact Jim or Lois McCartney at 245-3288 or [jrmcc@fullchannel.net](mailto:jrmcc@fullchannel.net). The group is open to all – not just members of this church.

**THE BEREAVEMENT GROUP** will next meet on

**Mon, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** from **9:30—10:30 a.m.** in the **church library**

The group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. New members are always welcome.

Questions or for more info, contact Betsy Brenner at

[jsbeeb@aol.com](mailto:jsbeeb@aol.com) or 245-8031.

## Recycling Changes at the Church



We now have several large mixed recyclables collection carts that will be emptied by our new trash collector. One is in the Vestry kitchen and one is in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

Please **DO RECYCLE** the following items: Bottles, cans, plastic containers less than 2 gallons in size, milk/juice cartons, paper and CLEAN cardboard.

The following items **ARE NOT RECYCLABLE** in RI at this time and belong in the trash: plastic straws, plastic utensils, paper plates, paper towels, paper cups, greasy pizza boxes.

All containers for recycling must be rinsed clean – keep plastic caps attached to plastic containers but remove metal lids from glass bottles and recycle separately.

Plastic grocery and other bags do not belong in the cart – please return them to the dedicated collection bins at local grocery stores, pharmacies, etc.

### End of Calendar Year Giving Reminder

Please note that if you wish to have any contribution recorded as being received by the church in 2014, it must be in the hands of the office by December 31<sup>st</sup> (or postmarked by that date).



Keep up to date with that's happening by using our **On-Line Church Calendar** which is kept up to date and lists everything that's happening here at the church.

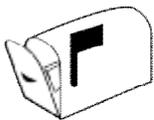


You can access it directly at <http://bccucc.view-events.com>, or go to the church website [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org) and click on the link at the bottom of any page.

Please remember to notify the office (246-0111 or [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)) of any changes/additions/corrections needed so it can be kept current.

**Free to a Good Home:** There is a wooden drop-leaf table downstairs in the Vestry that is free to anyone who wants it. First come, first serve! The table is in need of a little t.l.c. and is the one with a sign on it!

## Family Footnotes



**NOTE!**  
ADDRESS CHANGE

Zoe and Woody Woodruff  
Atria Village  
147 Bay Spring Ave  
Apt #119  
Barrington RI 02806

If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please inform either the ministers or the church office. A confidential message can be left for Jeff Larsen at 246-0111 x 103 or [jeff@bccucc.org](mailto:jeff@bccucc.org) or for Brendan Curran at 246-0111 x 104 or [brendan@bccucc.org](mailto:brendan@bccucc.org).



Barbara Spicer

### Memorial Service and Celebration of Life

*Natalie H. Perry*

January 13, 1929—July 27, 2014

Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 11 a.m.  
Barrington Congregational Church, UCC  
The Rev. Charlie Simonson will officiate.

A reception will follow  
in Fellowship Hall.



**We offer our prayers, support and sympathy to....**

Diane Wilkin on the death of her mother,  
Claire Lynch



[www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc)

Be sure to 'Like' us to get our news feeds including the *Bridge* newsletter and Ennouncements that are posted to it.

And suggest our Facebook page to your friends!

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

### Our Mission Statement

The Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, 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.



**December 2014**  
and  
**January 2015**



### 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.

### Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

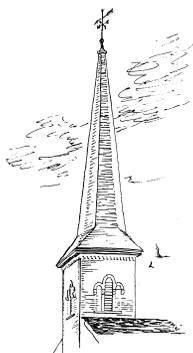
461 County Road,  
Barrington, RI 02806

Telephone: (401) 246-0111

E-mail: [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)

Website: [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc)



- |                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Senior Minister:               | The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen                                 | <a href="mailto:jeff@bccucc.org">jeff@bccucc.org</a>       |
| Associate Minister:            | the Rev. Brendan J. Curran                                     | <a href="mailto:brendan@bccucc.org">brendan@bccucc.org</a> |
| Organist/Choir Director:       | Marina Zabinski  |  |
| Office Administrator:          | Christine Wallis   | <a href="mailto:office@bccucc.org">office@bccucc.org</a>   |
| Financial Secretary:           | Patricia Stoddard  | <a href="mailto:pat@bccucc.org">pat@bccucc.org</a>         |
| Christian Education Assistant: | Andrea Terni Bullard   | <a href="mailto:andrea@bccucc.org">andrea@bccucc.org</a>   |
| Custodians:                    | Jack Salvaggio, Jim Salvaggio,<br>Paul Dziedzic, John Cordeiro |  |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i> <b>3:30 PM</b> Lay Visitation meeting, <i>Library</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Conversations in Advent, <i>Library</i>	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Knitting for Others group, <i>Marion Fodor's home</i>	<b>3</b> <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Collate Bridge, <i>Room 6</i> <b>6:30 PM</b> Dine Out Group eat at Bluewater Grill	<b>6</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Memorial Service for Natalie Perry, <i>Sanctuary</i>
<b>7</b> Advent 2 <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion, Church School <b>11:10 AM</b> Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, <i>Room 9</i> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Bereavement Group, <i>Library</i> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Conversations in Advent, <i>Library</i>	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</b> Memory Impairment Support Group, <i>Library</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Group, <i>Coffee Depot</i>	<b>10</b> <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i>	<b>11</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Women's Faith Group Holiday Lunch, <i>Trafford's Restaurant</i> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Senior Youth Group, <i>Room 9</i>	<b>12</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> BHS Jazz Band Christmas Concert, <i>Sanctuary</i>	<b>13</b> <b>2:30 PM</b> BCCUCC leaves to serve meal at Soup Kitchen
<b>14</b> Advent 3 <i>Jazz Christmas Sunday</i> Sing and Celebrate choir to sing in church <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with jazz music, Church School <b>11:15 AM</b> Finance Team meeting, <i>Library</i> <b>2:30 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Jr & Sr YG go Christmas Caroling followed by Youth Group Christmas Party	<b>15</b> <i>Deadline for Chancel Fund donations</i> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Conversations in Advent, <i>Library</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i>	<b>18</b> <b>10 AM</b> Stewardship meeting, <i>Library</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Advent 4 <i>Christmas Fund Offering</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service, Pageant rehearsal for Church School children during Church School time <b>11:15 AM</b> Pageant rehearsal for main characters and puppeteers	<b>22</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Conversations in Advent, <i>Library</i>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</b> Memory Impairment Support Group, <i>Library</i>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>3:30 PM</b> Pageant rehearsal for main characters and puppeteers <b>4:30 PM</b> Pageant rehearsal for Church School children <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship Service with Pageant <b>9:00 PM</b> Service of Readings and Carols with Adult Choir <b>11:30 PM</b> Contemplative Worship service with Communion	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Christmas 1 <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only	<b>29</b> <i>Office Open 9am - Noon</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Office Open 9am - Noon</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Office Open 9am - Noon</i>	<h1>December 2014</h1>		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2015</h1>				<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Office Open 9am – Noon</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Christmas 2 <b>8:30 AM</b> CEYM meeting, <i>Library</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion, Church School <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Senior Youth Group, <i>Room 9</i>	<b>5</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i> <b>3:30 PM</b> Lay Visitation meeting, <i>Library</i>	<b>6</b> Epiphany <b>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Knitting for Others group, <i>Liz Rosenholm's home</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> 'Praying With Your Neighbors, <i>Sts Matthew and Mark Episcopal Church</i>	<b>7</b> <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Deacons' Meeting, <i>Room 6</i>	<b>8</b> <b>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</b> Women's Faith Group, <i>Library</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Epiphany 1/Baptism of Lord <b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> OWL Session, <i>Library</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service, Church School <b>12:00 PM</b> Anti Bullying Speaker, Kevin Robinson, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> <b>3:00 PM</b> Installation Service for Brendan, <i>Sanctuary</i> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>	<b>12</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Buildings and Grounds meeting, <i>Room 6</i> <b>7:15 PM</b> Church Council meeting, <i>Library</i>	<b>13</b> <b>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</b> Memory Impairment Support Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> Membership Team meeting, <i>Fireside Parsonage</i>	<b>14</b>  <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Mission & Justice meeting, <i>Library</i>	<b>15</b>  <i>Bridge Deadline</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Epiphany 2 <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only	<b>19</b> <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>20</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Group, <i>Coffee Depot</i>	<b>21</b>  <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i>	<b>22</b> <b>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</b> Women's Faith Group, <i>Library</i>	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Collate Bridge, <i>Room 6</i>  Confirmation Retreat at Craigville	<b>24</b> Confirmation Retreat at Craigville  <b>7:30 PM</b> Fundraiser at 2nd Story Theater
<b>25</b> Epiphany 3 <b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> OWL Session, <i>Library</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service, Church School <b>11:30 AM - 12:45 PM</b> Lunch and Turkey Presentation, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>  <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Senior Youth Group, <i>Room 9</i>	<b>26</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting, <i>Jeff's Office</i>	<b>27</b> <b>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</b> Memory Impairment Support Group, <i>Library</i>	<b>28</b> <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Vestry</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>