

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We encourage you to take this sheet home to refer to as needed.

Sun, Dec 13	10 am	Worship Service, Church School
	After Worship	Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Room 9
	After Worship	Deacons pick up Christmas plants for delivery, Education building kitchen
	After Worship	Finance Team meeting, Room 6
	11:15 am	Pageant rehearsal for all participants, Sanctuary
	3 – 6 pm	JYG, SYG and others interested meet to go caroling at nursing homes
	6 – 6:30 pm	Mission Trip meeting for all participants, Library
Mon, Dec 14		<i>Deadline for Chancel Fund donations</i>
	10 am	Bereavement Group, Library
	11 am	Staff meeting, Sue's office
	7 pm	Advent Bible Study, Library
	7 pm	Buildings and Grounds meeting, Room 6
Tues, Dec 15	7 pm	Book Group, Coffee Depot in Warren
	7 pm	Search Committee – ad hoc, Library
Wed, Dec 16	Noon – 3:30 pm	Office Closed for Staff Christmas Lunch
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal, Vestry
Thurs, Dec 17	10 am – 1 pm	RICUCC Clergy meeting and lunch, Library
	Noon	Women's Faith Group Christmas lunch, Trafford Restaurant
Sun, Dec 20		<i>Christmas Fund Offering</i>
	10 am	Worship Service for All Ages with Special Christmas music, Nursery Care only
	11:15 am	Pageant rehearsal for cast and puppeteers, Sanctuary



Birthdays for the Week of December 13th

Ava DiMatteo, Amelia DeLaTorre, Wyatt Porter,
Jolie Salem, Sydney Zarlengo, Kim Colby,
Glenn Britland, John Faulhaber, David McMillan,
and Cam Voigt.

Please keep them in your prayers.

DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Jon Stabach (star deacon), Abby Ashley, Larry Ashley,
Stephanie Edwards, Greg Voigt, and Liz White.

In the event of a pastoral emergency after hours, if you cannot reach Sue (781 724 9831) or Brendan (401 318 2447) please call on one of the deacons.

Candle Sale TODAY: To raise funds for the 2016 Mission Trip, Ava Anderson's artisan chemical-free candles are being sold during the four weeks of advent. Candle sales will take place during coffee hour through the month of December. **Deadline for Christmas delivery is Friday, December 18th.** Order forms are available at coffee hour or from the rack outside the church office. Questions? Contact Ginger Stabach gstabach@gmail.com or (401) 225-2076. You can also visit Ginger's website at www.AvaAndersonNonToxic.com/ginger

Pasta Dinner Tickets go on sale TODAY during coffee hour. This is a fundraiser for the 2016 Mission Trip that will take place on SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2016 from 5 – 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. There will be both vegetarian sauce and gluten-free pasta options, and you can Eat In or Take Out. Tickets are \$10 Adult/Youth, \$6 Child (age 6-12), Child under 6 is free, and there's a \$30 maximum for a family. Save the date and purchase your tickets soon! Tickets will be available at the door, but advanced ticket purchase is much appreciated. Questions? Contact Brendan Brendan@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 2014.

Christmas Eve Pageant rehearsal is TODAY at 11:15 am for approx 45 minutes. Everyone should attend for a reading and walk through. This includes the younger Chorus of Angels and Shepherds who will learn their song and pick up their angel or shepherd costume.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH at 11:15 am. Rehearsal with puppets for cast and puppeteers. Refreshments will be provided.

(The chorus of angels and shepherds do not attend – their only rehearsal is December 13th).

CHRISTMAS EVE at 3:30 pm Dress rehearsal for cast and puppeteers.

CHRISTMAS EVE at 4:30 pm Chorus of Angels and Shepherds arrive.

Come Caroling: The Junior & Senior Youth Groups will be joining forces TODAY from 3 – 6 pm to go caroling at two local nursing homes, and they invite others from the congregation to join them. Meet in the church library at 3 pm to get organized before carpooling to Hattie Ide Chaffee and then to Atria Bay Spring. They'll return to the church for cookies and cider. Youth group members will require signed permission slips. RSVP to the youth group leaders at bccjvg@gmail.com

Advent Bible Study: The third of these is tomorrow, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH at 7 pm in the Library. All are invited to join Rev. Brendan Curran for an hour of practicing "Lectio Divina," a contemplative way of reading scripture. Together, participants "read, reflect, respond, and rest," with the Advent scriptures inviting the Christmas story to take root in the heart. Hope you can join us for the last of these special Bible Studies during the busy holiday season.

Longest Night Service: On MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 21ST at 7 pm, we will gather for a brief service for the Longest Night. Many churches hold a gathering on the Longest Night to light candles and give hope and healing to those who are grieving or in despair. It is a reminder that "it is better to light just one little candle, than to stumble in the dark". We will have a few readings, a prayer, hold some periods of silence, light candles, and for those who wish it, receive a blessing with oil. If this is a particularly difficult season for you, join us on the longest night, and be with others in prayer. This service is open to the community so invite your friends. It will be informal and inclusive in nature. One God, one Hope.

Christmas Eve services this year are at **5 pm** – Family friendly service includes Pageant (with puppets); **7 pm** – Lessons and Carols (traditional with choir); and **11 pm** – Contemplative Service with Communion. All are welcome.

Advent Candle Lighters needed: Sue and Brendan are looking for people to read the short liturgy and light the Advent candles on December 20th, and on Christmas Eve at the 5 pm & 7 pm services. Individuals, families or groups are welcome to do this. If you are interested please contact Sue (246-0111 x103 or sue@bccucc.org).

Christmas Eve Readers needed: Volunteers are needed to read scripture at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. If you are interested please contact Rev Sue Remick at (401) 246-0111 ext 103 or sue@bccucc.org

Chancel Fund deadline is TOMORROW, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. The congregation is reminded that in addition to paying for the Christmas plants used to decorate the sanctuary and the ones that are delivered to the homebound, sick and bereaved, the Fund also pays for the wreaths that decorate the front doors. Money from the Chancel Fund has also been used to help pay for other items that enhance the worship space such as the new carpeting, the brass handrails up to the altar level, and upgrades to the sound system. *See the donation form included in today's bulletin to make a donation and for more info.*

Giving Tree: Our Mission and Justice Ministry Team has a "Giving Tree" 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 is up in Fellowship Hall THRU SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH and donations will be taken each Sunday. The gift cards purchased will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

Mitten Tree: During Advent thru DECEMBER 20TH our Mitten Tree is in the narthex (near where the greeters stand) for your donations of new hats, mittens, scarves and gloves of all sizes - for children, teenagers and adults. The items will be donated to Amos House for distribution to those in need at their annual Christmas dinner in Providence. Both handmade and purchased items are most welcome. Thanks to all who have added items to the tree already.

Altar Flower Donors needed in January: Would you like to pay for an altar flower arrangement one Sunday in January? Donors can pay for one or both arrangements (\$30 each). There are currently openings on SUNDAYS, JANUARY 3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 31ST. Flowers can be donated in memory, thanksgiving or celebration of a person or event. If interested contact Audrey Rogers at adrogers8@cox.net or call (401) 246-1727.

Staff Christmas Gift: *A message from Sue and Brendan:* "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 are compensated for. They work especially hard during an interim time. We therefore invite you to give them a gift during these holidays. Your gifts will be divided up among Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Coordinator, Marina at our organ, and Paul & John on the custodial staff - according to the number of hours they work. Thank you for your generosity."

Search Committee update: The Search Committee has been taking all the information that you have provided in the Church Chats or have sent in, and are using it for the Church Profile. Many thanks to all that have participated as this will help us a great deal in our search for next Senior Minister. With Christmas right around the corner, we're going to take a few weeks off until after the holidays but will be back at it right in the New Year.

Have you made a pledge yet? If you haven't yet made a pledge to financially support your church in 2016, *it's not too late!* Please prayerfully consider how much you can give then complete a pledge card (available from the rack outside the church office) or email our Financial Secretary, Pat Stoddard at pat@bccucc.org with the information. Making a pledge (promise) ahead of time of how much you will give in 2016 allows the Finance team to come up with a budget for the year. They are busy working on the 2016 budget and hope that as many church members and friends as possible will make a pledge. No pledge is too small or too large! Many thanks to all who have pledged for 2016 – it is much appreciated.

Deadline for reimbursements is TOMORROW: If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out vouchers (*which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team*) and return to the church office, with receipts attached, by TOMORROW, MON, DEC 14TH. Expenses turned in after then will be charged to next year's budget. Vouchers are available from the folder at the front of Pat's desk in the church office.

The Bereavement Group meets MON, DEC 14TH at 10 am in the library. Anyone who has lost a loved one at any time is welcome - participants need not be from this church. Contact Betsy Brenner at jsbeeb@aol.com or 245-8031 for more info.

Book Group meets TUES., DEC 15TH at 7 pm at The Coffee Depot, 501 Main St, Warren to discuss the book *Goodnight June* by Sarah Jio. All are welcome. For more info, contact Helen Schall at 245-4724 or helenschall@hotmail.com

Women's Faith Group. On THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH the group will meet on the first floor of Trafford Restaurant in Warren for their annual Christmas Lunch. RSVP for the lunch *by tomorrow, Monday, December 14th* to Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net, or to the church office 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org.

Memory Impairment Support Group meets TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND from 1 - 2:30 pm in the church library. The group is open to patients and caregivers, and participants need not be members of this church. For more info contact Jim or Lois McCartney at 245-3288 or jrmcc@fullchannel.net

UCC Christmas Fund donation envelopes will be included in next Sunday's bulletin. The *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund* is one of four special UCC Mission Offerings and it provides a means to directly assist those who have served faithfully in lay and authorized ministries of the UCC. Please make checks payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'Christmas Fund'. Donations may also be sent directly to the church office. Thank you.

Goodwill Professional Clothes Drive: For a limited time there is a special Goodwill bin in the foyer of Fellowship Hall for the collection of men's and women's suits, shirts, dresses, blouses, shoes, belts, purses and anything else that might be appropriate for a person to wear for a job interview. The bin will only be here until just after Christmas so don't delay!

There is a Nursery Nook available in the vestry - located directly below the sanctuary - where a parent can retreat with a fussy child during worship and still hear the service on the loudspeaker down there. (If you can't hear anything, use the knob on the front of the speaker to turn up the volume.) However, we believe that God put the wiggle in children – so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! You and your children are most welcome to remain in the sanctuary if you prefer.