

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., Dec., 14	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jazz Christmas Sunday</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Worship Service with Jazz Music and Sing and Celebrate Choir, Church School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:15 am Finance Team meeting, Library</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:30 – 6:30 pm Junior & Senior Youth Group meet at church then go Caroling</p>
Mon., Dec., 15	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Deadline for Chancel Fund donations</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 am Staff meeting, Jeff's office</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Sacred Conversations in Advent, Library</p>
Wed., Dec., 17	<p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm Choir rehearsal, Vestry</p>
Sun., Dec., 21	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christmas Fund Offering</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Worship Service, Pageant rehearsal for Church School children during Church School time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:15 am Pageant Rehearsal for main characters and puppeteers</p>



Birthdays for the Week of Dec 14th

Amelia De La Torre, Wyatt Porter, Jolie Salem, Sydney Zarlengo, Kim Colby, Glenn Britland, John Faulhaber, David McMillan, Cam Voigt, Lauren Browning, Cristina Hall, Christian Odjakjian, and Ozzie Rosenholm.

Please keep them in your prayers.

DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Chris Brady (Star Deacon), Cheryl Muth, Liz White, and Greg Voigt.

If in a pastoral emergency after hours you cannot reach Brendan (318-2447) or Jeff (247-1787) please contact a deacon.

Deacons Fund: These envelopes were inadvertently omitted from last Sunday's bulletins so are being included this week instead. Please consider making a donation to the Deacons Fund which is used to help those in the East Bay needing a helping hand. Money from the Fund is used to purchase Shaw's gift cards which are given to those who come into the church office seeking help, and the recipients can use them to purchase meat, produce and other fresh items that TAPIN doesn't have. The church also receives requests for help in paying utility bills or rent and if a minister determines the situation warrants it, he contacts the Deacons to see if money can be made available from the Fund to assist. The number of people asking for help always increases at this time of year, so the Deacons appreciate any donation you can make.

Children's Bulletins: We have two different versions – one for ages 3-6 and one for ages 7-12 – available for pick up from the basket on the table in the narthex as you come into church. If you forgot, please feel free to go get one!

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. Comfortable chairs, toys and books are provided. We invite parents and children to make use of the Nursery Nook if they would like.

Headphones Available. There are two sets of full headphones in the sanctuary for those who need extra help hearing the service. They plug into the usual box and cover both ears. Check with the ushers for availability.

Youth Group Christmas Caroling : TODAY the Junior and Senior Youth Groups are going caroling together to local nursing homes Atria Bay Spring and East Bay Manor. They will meet at the church at 2:30 pm for a brief warm up before heading out. After caroling, they will go to the Stabach's home for a potluck dinner and Yankee Swap. Hopefully everyone going has already RSVP'd to the leaders at bccjyg@gmail.com. If you didn't RSVP and want to go, please speak with Kim Zeleznik, Ginger Stabach or Laurie Dubel after church today to see if it is possible. Youth going are reminded to bring their signed permission slip, together with a \$10 wrapped gift and an appetizer or dessert to share.

Sacred Conversations in Advent: On Monday Evenings during Advent, Brendan is facilitating a sacred conversations group in the Library at 7 pm. Meetings 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 remaining Monday meetings on DECEMBER 15TH & 22ND -

Staff Christmas Bonus: *A message from Jeff....* "During Advent you will find in the pew racks an envelope marked 'Staff Christmas Bonus'. Brendan and I 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 give 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."

Chancel Fund deadline is TOMORROW: The congregation is invited to make donations to our Chancel Fund which is used to purchase plants for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. The Fund is also used to purchase Christmas plants for donation to our homebound, sick and bereaved. *The deadline for donations and dedications is tomorrow MON, DEC 15TH.* See the separate insert in today's bulletin for details and donation form. A member of the Chancel Team should be at the piano to collect your form and donation, or put them in the offering plate or the church office. Thank you.

The Christmas Fund Offering will be taken next SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST and special offering envelopes will be included in the bulletin. This special mission offering of the UCC gives everyone an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve the United Church of Christ. The Christmas Fund provides direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees in the form of Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas 'Thank You' Gift Checks. Please make checks payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'UCC Christmas Fund'. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Services:	5 pm	Family-friendly service that includes a Christmas Pageant
	9 pm	Traditional Service of carols and readings with the adult choir
	11:30 pm	Contemplative Service with Communion

The Christmas Pageant will have participants of all ages and will include some giant puppets made by Brendan. If you would like to participate and haven't yet signed up, please speak with Brendan to see what roles still need to be filled. Church School children have the opportunity to be part of the angel chorus or crowd of shepherds.

Pageant Rehearsals: Puppeteers and main characters will rehearse next SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST from 11:15 – 12:45 pm, and again on CHRISTMAS EVE from 3:30 pm. Rehearsals for the church school children will be during church school time next SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST and then on CHRISTMAS EVE from 4:30 pm.

Mitten Tree: Our Mission and Justice Ministry Team has a Christmas Tree in the narthex (where the greeters stand) and they are asking the congregation to fill it with new hats, mittens, scarves and gloves of all sizes - for children, teenagers and adults. The items will be donated to various local agencies for distribution to those in need. Both handmade and purchased items are most welcome. Please bring in your items a.s.a.p.

Giving Tree: The Mission and Justice Ministry Team's "Giving Tree" has 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 and donations will be taken each Sunday THROUGH DEC 21ST - a week later than originally listed. The gift cards purchased will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Memory Impairment Support Group will meet on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD 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

The Bereavement Group will meet MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH from 10 - 11 am in the church library. The group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and new members are always welcome. For more info about the group, contact Betsy Brenner at jsbeeb@aol.com or 245-8031.

Knitting for Others Group will next meet on TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH at the home of Liz Rosenholm, 15 Fremont Ave., Barrington. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. For more info on the group, contact Mary Lou Slicker at 245-0085 or rislick@fullchannel.net

Help Needed with Coffee Hour: This is an ongoing need so please consider signing up to help by providing food, serving or clearing up on a Sunday that works for you. There are sign-up sheets on the table at the back of Fellowship Hall or contact Jane Tonn (jtomm2@cox.net or 289-2349) chair of Membership.

Our church newsletter - the December 2014 and January 2015 *Bridge* - has been published and copies are available for pick up from the vestry table, the rack outside the church office or the table at the back of Fellowship Hall. Feel free to take a copy either for yourself or to give to a friend who might be interested in learning more about our church.

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 **J**

End of 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 31ST (or postmarked by that date).

Anti Bullying Program: Kevin Robinson - ten time X Games champion BMX rider and world record holder - will present 'Putting the Brakes on Bullying' on SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH at Noon in 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 for all ages, is free and open to the public – so invite your friends and your children's friends.

Fundraiser at 2nd Story Theater: Tickets for a preview performance of 'Seminar' at 2nd Story Theater, 28 Market St., Warren are available for purchase from Chris Brady at coffee hour in Fellowship Hall TODAY. The performance is on SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH and begins at 7:30 pm (theater bar opens at 7 pm). Tickets are \$20 each with \$10 going to the Groden Center that provides a wide range of services and support for children, adolescents and adults with autism and Aspergers Syndrome. '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". Sponsored by your Mission & Justice team.

Lunch and Turkey Trip presentation: Save the date of SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH when there will be a lunch at 11:30 am following coffee hour. After lunch, Jeff will speak and show pictures of the recent trip to Turkey. Others who went on the trip will also be present to add their thoughts. The program will end by 12:45 am. All are invited.

Brendan's Installation as Associate Minister of this church will take place on SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Save the date!!!

'These Days' Daily Devotions for Living by Faith: These booklets are made available free to the congregation by your Deacons and anyone is welcome to take a copy. They can be found on the sideboard in the vestry hallway, the rack outside the church office, or at the back of Fellowship Hall. Copies for October - December, 2014 and also for January – March, 2015 are currently available.

Keep up to date with that's happening by using our on-line Church Calendar – it 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 and click on the link at the bottom of any page. Please remember to notify the office (246-0111 or office@bccucc.org) of any changes/additions/corrections needed so it can be updated and kept current. Thank you.