

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Sun, Dec 17		<i>Advent 3</i>
		<i>Christmas Fund Offering</i>
	10 am	Worship Service with Sing & Celebrate Choir, Church School Pageant rehearsal
	11:15 am – 12:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal for puppeteers and speaking roles, Sanctuary
	12:30 pm	JYG & SYG meet in Room 9 to go Caroling, then have a Christmas Party
Mon, Dec 18	11 am	Bereavement Group, Library
Tue, Dec 19	11 am	Staff meeting, Dale's office
	12:30 pm	Staff Christmas Lunch (office closed until mid afternoon!)
	7 pm	Book Group, Library
Wed, Dec 20	7:30 – 9 pm	Choir rehearsal, Vestry
Thurs, Dec 21	3 – 5 pm	Brendan's Community Office Hours, Coffee Depot
Sun, Dec 24		<i>Advent 4</i>
	10 am	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only
		<i>Christmas Eve</i>
	4 pm	Final Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
	5 pm	Family Service with Christmas Pageant
	10 pm	Traditional service of Lessons and Carols



Birthdays for the Week of December 17th:

John Faulhaber, David McMillan, Cameron Voigt, Christian Odjakjian, Ozzie Rosenholm, Lynne Githens, Evan Anderson, Steve Fodor, Hannah Lennon, and Carol Louttit. Please keep them in your prayers.

If your birthday doesn't appear, please contact us at office@bccucc.org or 246-0111 so we can update the database.

DEACONS FOR DECEMBER: Jon Stabach (star), Abby Ashley, Chris Brady, Kim Zeleznik, & Bernie Hawes. In the event of a pastoral emergency after hours, if you cannot reach Dale (289-3780) or Brendan (318-2447) please call on a deacon.

Advent Candle Lighters & Christmas Eve Readers needed: Dale is looking for people to read the liturgy and light the Advent candles on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH at the 10 am, 5 pm & 10 pm services. Additional volunteers are also needed to read scripture at the 10 pm Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these please contact Rev. Dale Azevedo (401) 246-0111 ext 103 or dale@bccucc.org.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals: Children participating in the pageant have a rehearsal TODAY during church school. On Christmas Eve, they are asked to arrive at 4:30 pm.

Participants operating puppets and anyone with a speaking role has a rehearsal after church TODAY from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm, and are asked to come early on Christmas Eve to run through the pageant at 4 pm.

Christmas Eve Services: On SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH there will be a regular **10 am** worship service for the 4th Sunday of Advent. Dale will give the last sermon in the Advent series 'It is Coming...' Later the same day, Christmas Eve services will be held in the sanctuary at 5 pm and 10 pm. The **5 pm** Family service will include a Christmas Pageant with Brendan's giant puppets and this year we're inviting the congregation to come dressed as a nativity character or animal. (more information below). Please note that, unlike last year, this year's 5 pm service will take place entirely in the sanctuary. The **10 pm** service will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols and Dale will give the Christmas message. Music at the later service will include congregational singing of many favorite carols with special selections from our adult choir, soloist, handbells and instrumentalists. We hope that you can join us for worship this Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve 5 pm service – please come in costume! The puppets will be back and we need everyone's help! We want to include the whole congregation this year! All who plan to attend the five o'clock pageant on Christmas Eve are encouraged to come to the pageant dressed as their favorite nativity character! (this is optional but you are encouraged.) Is God calling you to be Mary or Joseph? Maybe you're a donkey! Maybe you're an angel, a shepherd, or a wise person! Please make a costume during Advent and wear it to the pageant and be part of our living nativity with the puppets! Let's all help bring the nativity to life this year! *See above for rehearsal information for children and puppeteers etc.*

Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund offering will be taken today. Special envelopes are included in TODAY's bulletin, and information is included on the insert. In addition, a special guest speaker – the Rev. Joe Runner - will talk about the fund during today's service. Please make checks payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'Christmas Fund'. Learn more at www.christmasfund.org.

Mitten Tree – deadline is TODAY: The mitten tree in the narthex is ready to receive your final donations of warm hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens etc. for children, youth and adults of all sizes this holiday season. They are being given to Amos House for distribution at their annual Christmas Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated a warm item!

Giving Tree – deadline is TODAY: Mission & Justice's "Giving Tree" is in Fellowship Hall for the last time TODAY with envelopes for your donations of various amounts to apply to gift cards to supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, utilities, toy stores, shopping malls, etc. The gift cards will be given to the Women's Resource Center to help the families there afford the necessities, and also allow the women to have money to purchase gifts for their families and themselves. Contact Lory McCoy at lsnadymccoy@gmail.com or 247-2599 for more info or with questions.

Cards for Sale: Cards with a watercolor print of the church continue to be available during coffee hour while supplies last. The original painting was the work of long time member Mary Kutcher. The cards make great gifts for family and friends, are available in two sizes - greeting card (3 for \$5) and note card (5 for \$5) sizes – and are blank inside.

OneEggHaiti fundraiser: Colorful bracelets made by Haitian women are being sold at coffee hour during December. The proceeds will help feed a child in Haiti an egg a day, an incredible source of protein that is important for cognitive and physical development. The RIC UCC Haiti Task Force is partners with OneEggHaiti to provide much needed protein for undernourished Haitian children in schools and orphanages. The bracelets make excellent Christmas presents!

Staff Christmas Gift: *A message from Dale and Brendan...* “During the first 3 weeks of Advent you will find in the pew racks an envelope marked “Staff Christmas Gift.” We are blessed to have wonderful people working here who give more hours to our church than expected or are compensated for. We therefore invite you to join with us in giving them a gift during these holidays. Your gifts will be divided up among six different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Coordinator, Marina at our organ, and Paul & John on the custodial staff. Each staff person will receive this gift according to the number of hours they work. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity.” Please make checks payable to ‘BCCUCC’ and write ‘Staff Gift’ in the memo line. Please note that TODAY is the last Sunday for the special envelopes to be in the pew racks. Thank you.

JYG/SYG Caroling and Christmas Party: The Junior and Senior Youth groups will be going Christmas caroling to local assisted living facilities TODAY, leaving from the church at 12:45 pm. (Gather in Room 9 at 12:30 pm after the pageant rehearsal). Following the caroling there will be a Christmas party in Room 9 with refreshments and a white elephant gift exchange (where everyone re-gifts something they like but choose to give it away in the spirit of giving). The youth will also make ornaments and watch a Christmas movie. All in grades 6-12 are welcome. Don't forget your signed permission slip to go caroling!

Bereavement Group meets MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH at 11 am in the library. The group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one at any time. For more info contact the facilitator Betsy Brenner at jsbeeb@aol.com or 245-8031.

Chancel Fund – deadline is tomorrow: Donation forms with all of the information together with special envelopes are included in the bulletin for the last time TODAY. Money from the Chancel Fund is used to purchase the plants that decorate the sanctuary at Christmas, plus the plants that are delivered by the deacons to our homebound, sick or recently bereaved. We hope that you will consider donating to this fund. *Deadline for donations is tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 18th.*

Deadline for 2017 Reimbursable Expenses has been extended to December 18th: If you have any invoices or expenses from 2017 that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out vouchers (which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team) and send them to the church office, with receipts attached, a.s.a.p. Vouchers are available from a folder on Pat's desk in the church office. *Expenses turned in after Dec 18th will be charged to next year's budget!*

The Book Group meets TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH at 7 pm in the church library. They will discuss *The Relic Master* by Christopher Buckley. “Through the cheeky humor, the author gives readers a very real sense of the 16th century when science and superstition held equal sway, and a man was always a sword's breadth away from a horrible death”. (Publisher's Weekly). For more info contact Helen Schall helenschall@hotmail.com 245-4724. All are welcome!

Community Office Hours are when our ministers make themselves available in a more informal setting for anyone from the church or community to stop by and visit. Brendan is at The Coffee Depot, 501 Main Street, Warren on THURSDAY AFTERNOONS from 3–5 pm. Dale is hoping to resume his community office hours in the New Year. Stay tuned!

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office will be CLOSED on Mon & Tues, Dec 25th & 26th, and on Mon, Jan 1st, 2018. The office will be OPEN from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm only on Wed, Thurs & Fri, Dec 27th, 28th, & 29th.

Memory Impairment Support Group will meet TUES, DEC 26TH from 1 - 2:30 pm in the library. It is open to patients and caregivers, and need not be members of this church. Info: contact Jim McCartney 245-3288 jrmcc@fullchannel.net

Next eBridge: The next eBridge will be published THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH. Deadline for submissions is Noon on *Wednesday, January 3rd*, but an earlier submission is appreciated.

Knitting for Others Group: Meets TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH from 7-9 pm at the home of Audrey Rogers, 12 Zephyr Lane, Barrington. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Participants work on a variety of items to be given away including prayer shawls. RSVP to Audrey at adrogers8@cox.net or 247-1727 so she knows how many to expect. Anyone knitting red hats for the “Little Hats, Big Hearts” project should get them to Paula Rooks or drop them off in the church office before the end of the year. More info about the group from Mary Lou Slicker, 245-0085 or rislick@fullchannel.net.

Embracing & Sharing Beloved Community: A Dialogue/Conversation between Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo & Rabbi Andrew Klein will take place at Temple Habonim on FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH at 6:15 pm - Worship followed by dinner; and at Barrington Congregational Church on SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH at 10 am - Worship followed by fellowship. BCCUCC and Temple Habonim share a long history of being good neighbors, welcoming each other into our respective houses of worship, and appreciating the differences between us. Our two communities of faith will gather twice over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to celebrate his vision of beloved community and explore ways that we can keep his dream alive during these challenging times. Please mark your calendar and then join us at either or both worship services.

Dale and Elizabeth would like to get to know you better! All members and friends of the church are encouraged to sign up and join Elizabeth and Dale Azevedo for monthly dinners at the parsonage (7 Fireside Drive, Barrington). Sign up for dates in early 2018 at the following link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4eaba823a6f85-feasting> or contact the church office. They don't guarantee a gourmet meal, but do promise a comfortable table where all are welcome!

Make money for the church by shopping at **AmazonSmile** where every eligible purchase you make on Amazon will raise 0.5% of the purchase price for our church. Learn more at <http://smile.amazon.com> and choose ‘Barrington Congregational Church’ as your charitable organization. The church receives a quarterly deposit from Amazon!

Room 8 to become a Meditation Room: As a part of his ministry plan this year, Brendan will be leading meditation classes at the church and we need your help to transform Room 8 into a meditation space. A list of what's needed is on the church website (www.bccucc.org and click on the link on the home page) or speak with Brendan. Thanks to everyone who has already made a donation. With some more donations we're hoping to create the meditation room in early 2018.

Please take your dishes home! A large number of dishes and other kitchen items, including crockpots, have accumulated in the church kitchen. If any belong to you, please claim them and take home. Items remaining after the end of the year will be donated to the church kitchen or to TAPIN. Thank you.