

# CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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
Mon, Dec 21	11 am	Staff meeting, Sue's office
	7 pm	Longest Night Service, Sanctuary
Tues, Dec 22	1 – 2:30 pm	Memory Impairment Support Group, Library
	6 pm	Baptism (Tewart), Sanctuary
Wed, Dec 23	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal, Vestry
Thurs, Dec 24		<b>Christmas Eve</b> Office Closed
	3:30 pm	Pageant Dress Rehearsal for cast and puppeteers, Sanctuary
	4:30 pm	Chorus of Angels and Shepherds arrive
	5 pm	Family Service with Christmas Pageant
	7 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols (with choir and handbell solo)
	11 pm	Contemplative service with Communion
Fri, Dec 25		<b>Christmas Day</b> Office Closed
Sun, Dec 27	10 am	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only



## Birthdays for the Week of December 20<sup>th</sup>

Lauren Browning, Cristina Hall, Christian Odjakjian, Ozzie Rosenholm, Lynne Githens, Lisa Holby, Hannah Jenkins, Evan Anderson, Steve Fodor, Hannah Lennon, Carol Louttit, Noelle Cooke, Andrew Todd, Stephanie Edwards, and Carrie Kurland.

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.*

**UCC Christmas Fund** donation envelopes are included in TODAY's bulletin only. 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 or you can donate online at [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org) Thank you.

**Christmas Eve Pageant rehearsal** for cast and puppeteers is TODAY at 11:15 am. Refreshments will be provided. (The chorus of angels and shepherds do not attend – their only rehearsal was last Sunday).

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

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

**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 past). Order forms are available at coffee hour. Questions? Contact Ginger Stabach [gstabach@gmail.com](mailto:gstabach@gmail.com) or (401) 225-2076. You can also visit Ginger's website at [www.AvaAndersonNonToxic.com/ginger](http://www.AvaAndersonNonToxic.com/ginger)

**Pasta Dinner Tickets** are on sale TODAY during coffee hour. This is a fundraiser for the 2016 Mission Trip that will take place on SUNDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 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](mailto:Brendan@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 x 2014.

**Longest Night Service:** Tomorrow evening, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 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 Readers needed:** An additional volunteer is 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 – either speak with her today or call her at (401) 246-0111 ext 103 or email [sue@bccucc.org](mailto:sue@bccucc.org) a.s.a.p.

**Giving Tree deadline for donations is TODAY:** Our 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 THRU TODAY. The gift cards purchased will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

**Mitten Tree:** The deadline for donations to our Mitten Tree is TODAY. It is located 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.

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

**Church Office Holiday Hours:** The office will be closed on THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>, and on FRIDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>. It will be open from 9 am – Noon only, MONDAY – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup>.

**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 3<sup>RD</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup> & 31<sup>ST</sup>. Flowers can be donated in memory, thanksgiving or celebration of a person or event. If interested contact Audrey Rogers at [adrogers8@cox.net](mailto:adrogers8@cox.net) or call (401) 246-1727.

**Staff Christmas Gift:** TODAY is the last Sunday for donations. *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.”

**Goodwill Professional Clothes Drive:** There is currently 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!

**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](mailto: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.

**Memory Impairment Support Group** meets TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 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](mailto:jrmcc@fullchannel.net)

**The Bereavement Group** meets MON, JAN 4<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:jsbeeb@aol.com) or 245-8031 for more info.

**Knitting for Others Group:** If you are busy knitting items for the mitten tree, don’t forget that today is the deadline! The group next meets TUESDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> from 7 – 9 pm at the home of Audrey Rogers, 12 Zephyr Lane, Barrington. They will probably resume making prayer shawls, but they welcome suggestions for other projects that help others. Questions? Contact Mary Lou Slicker at 245-0085 or [RISLick@fullchannel.net](mailto:RISLick@fullchannel.net) All knitters and crocheters are very welcome.

**Women’s Faith Group next meets on** THURSDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> from 1:30 – 3 pm in the library. They will begin watching the movie *Invictus*. All women from the church are invited to attend, as well as women from other faith communities. Questions? Contact Nancy Martin 273-1078 or [nancy.martin3@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.martin3@verizon.net) or Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net).

**Book Group** meets TUESDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> at 7 pm at The Coffee Depot, 501 Main St, Warren to discuss the book *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* by Jill Lepore. All are welcome. For more info, contact Helen Schall at 245-4724 or [helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenschall@hotmail.com)

**The Dine Out Group** will meet on FRIDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> at 6:30 pm at Crossroads Pub, 133 Market Street, Warren RI. Sign up by Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to Sue Black 245-2772 or [sueandjimblack@gmail.com](mailto:sueandjimblack@gmail.com) All are invited, both singles & couples, and new diners are always most welcome.

**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.

**Is your current pledge paid?** We are almost at the end of our current fiscal period (July – December, 2015) and so we respectfully ask that all those who made a pledge for this period, please fulfill it before the end of the year. Our church is totally self-supporting and relies on the income from pledges to pay its bills. Many thanks to all who have met their pledge.

**Thank you to Debby Barton** - a Barrington resident and member of St. John’s church - who last year saw that the crèche figures on our front lawn were in need of repainting. She volunteered her time and expertise and has repainted about half of the figures. She will do the remaining figures in time for next Christmas. We thank her for her talent and generosity.

**Thank you to Cardi Corp** for rebuilding the storm drain in the driveway behind the church. They did a great job and it should last a long time. We thank them for doing this work at no cost to the church.

**Please wear your nametag for both worship and coffee hour** – it helps us all get to know each other and is welcoming to newcomers. Need a nametag? Sign up for one on the sheet under the nametag rack or contact the church office.

**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.