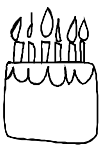


CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., Dec., 21		<i>Christmas Fund Offering</i>	
	10 am		Worship Service, Pageant rehearsal for Church School children taking part in the pageant during Church School time
	11:15 am		Pageant Rehearsal for main characters and puppeteers
Mon., Dec., 22			
	11 am		Staff meeting, Jeff's office
	7 pm		Sacred Conversations in Advent, Library
Tues., Dec., 23	1-2:30 pm		Memory Impairment Support Group, Library
Wed., Dec., 24		Christmas Eve	
		<i>Office Closed</i>	
	3:30 pm		Pageant rehearsal for main characters and puppeteers
	4:30 pm		Pageant rehearsal for Church School children
	5 pm		Worship Service with Christmas Pageant
	9 pm		Traditional Service of Readings and Carols with the Adult Choir
	11:30 pm		Contemplative Worship Service with Communion
Thurs., & Fri., Dec 25 & 26		<i>Office Closed</i>	
Sun., Dec., 28	10 am		Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only



Birthdays for the Week of Dec 21st

*Lynne Githens, Lisa Holby, Hannah Jenkins,
Evan Anderson, Steve Fodor, Hannah Lennon,
Carol Louttit, Noelle Cooke, Andrew Todd, Stephanie Edwards,
Carrie Kurland, John Kelley, and Nancy Voigt.*

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.*

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.

The Christmas Fund Offering is being taken TODAY and special offering envelopes are 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.

Sacred Conversations in Advent: The last of these is tomorrow, MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND at 7 pm in the library. Brendan is facilitating the meetings which 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 even if you haven't been to any of the previous sessions.

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." Please make all donations by TODAY. Thank you.

Pageant Rehearsals:

- Church school children who will be here for the 5 pm service on Christmas Eve and want to participate in the pageant (as angels or shepherds) will rehearse TODAY during church school time, and again on CHRISTMAS EVE from 4:30 pm.
- Puppeteers and main characters rehearse TODAY from 11:15–12:45 pm, and on CHRISTMAS EVE from 3:30 pm.

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

Altar Flowers: There are a couple of Sundays coming up where a donor is needed to pay for one bouquet of the altar flowers (\$30 each). If you are interested in doing this either next Sunday, December 28th or on Sunday, January 4th, please contact Cheryl Muth at jccbmuth@aol.com or 433-2878.

Thank you to the Boy Scouts of Troop 4 who spent last Saturday painting Room 6. The troop meets at the church on Monday evenings throughout the school year and they wanted to do a service project for the church to show their appreciation.

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. Thanks to all who have donated items.

The Giving Tree is up in Fellowship Hall and donations will be taken thru TODAY. Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Ministry Team, the 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 gift cards purchased will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

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.

The Memory Impairment Support Group will meet this 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 Freemont 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

'Praying with Your Neighbors' – The second of the 'Open Services' organized by the Barrington Interfaith Clergy Association will be on TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH at Sts Matthew and Mark Episcopal Church, 5 Chapel Road, Barrington. It will be a service in celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany and will begin at 7 pm (not 7:30 pm as listed in the Bridge). All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation, or none.

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.

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. All are welcome. Save the date!!!

The Book Group will meet TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH at 7 pm at The Coffee Depot in Warren to discuss *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. All welcome. Contact Helen Schall at helenschall@hotmail.com or 245-4724 for more info.

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.

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 (jtonn2@cox.net or 289-2349) chair of Membership.

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**

Is your pledge up to date? The end of December marks the mid-point in the church's fiscal year. Will your pledge be 50% paid? Thanks to all who financially support the work and mission of this church.

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).

Nametags: Please wear your nametag to both the worship service and coffee hour – it helps us get to know each other and is also welcoming to newcomers. Need a nametag? Sign up under the nametag rack, or contact the office. Nametags that have been requested can be found on the rack in the vestry hallway. Please be sure to check the racks carefully before requesting a new one as duplicates are often found!

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.