

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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
Mon, Dec 25		Christmas Day – OFFICE CLOSED
Tue, Dec 26		OFFICE CLOSED
	1 – 2:30 pm	Memory Impairment Support Group, Library
Wed, Dec 27		OFFICE OPEN 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM ONLY
Thurs, Dec 28		OFFICE OPEN 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM ONLY
	3 – 5 pm	Brendan’s Community Office Hours, Coffee Depot
Fri, Dec 29		OFFICE OPEN 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM ONLY
Sun, Dec 31	10 am	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only



Birthdays for the Week of December 24th:

Noelle Cooke, Andrew Todd, Stephanie Edwards, Victor Fernandez, Nancy Vogt, Carolyn Materne, Willow Rainock, Alex Anderson, Gabe Anderson, Giovanni Malpartida, and Kristen Westmoreland.

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.

Christmas Eve Services: Following this morning's service, the sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas Eve services that will take place at 5 and 10 pm. We hope you can join us again this evening:

The **5 pm** Family service includes 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 if they wish (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 is a traditional service of Lessons and Carols and Dale will give the Christmas message. Music at the later service includes congregational singing of many favorite carols with special selections from our adult choir, soloist, handbells and brass. We hope that you can join us for worship this evening.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: Participants operating puppets and anyone with a speaking role is asked to come early this afternoon to run through the pageant at 4 pm. Children participating in the pageant are asked to arrive at 4:30 pm.

Christmas Eve 5 pm service – come in costume! All who plan to attend the 5 pm 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! If you have a costume, please wear it to the pageant and be part of our living nativity with the puppets!

Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund offering was taken last Sunday. However, it's not too late to make a donation. If you need a special envelope for a cash donation, the ushers have some. Checks can be put directly into the offering plate, payable to 'BCCUCC' with 'Christmas Fund' on the memo line. Learn more at www.christmasfund.org. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Staff Christmas Gift. The staff will receive it in their first paycheck of 2018. 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. Many thanks.

'From the River's Edge' – the Pastor's blog. The latest posting "Walking the Welcome Talk" by Rev. Brendan Curran can be read at the church's website www.bccucc.org. Copies are available from the table in the back of Fellowship Hall.

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.

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

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 and plans to be there as usual on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH. Dale is hoping to resume his community office hours in the New Year. Stay tuned!

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, should they wish to, 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.)

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.

Bereavement Group next meets MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH 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.

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. For more information about the group contact Mary Lou Slicker, 245-0085 or rislick@fullchannel.net.

Women's Faith Group next meets on THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH from 1:30 – 3 pm in the church library. The new book they've chosen to read and discuss is *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan. Copies of the book are available from the church office at the discounted price of \$13. The group welcomes women from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faith traditions. For more information contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net

BCCUCC and Temple Habonim to worship together over MLK weekend: *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!

Loaves and Fishes truck run – help needed: On THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH volunteers from BCCUCC will be taking the Loaves and Fishes RI truck to Emmanuel House and Crossroads in Providence to serve the men and women there seeking nourishment for body, mind and soul. Prep starts in the BCCUCC kitchen around 4:30 pm to prepare food and load the truck; with the goal of arriving at our destination by about 6 pm. Expected arrival back at church for unloading and cleaning the truck is between 7:30 and 8 pm. As always, 6 people may ride in the truck, and 2 are very welcome to follow behind in a car. All ages are welcome to help prep at the church. However, for serving purposes, it is best to have adults (and children older than 16) travel to Emmanuel House and Crossroads.

Volunteers are also needed to donate food, toiletries, and certain clothing items. There's a SignUpGenius to register for donating what's needed, as well as to sign up to help with the prep or go out on the truck at www.signupgenius.com. Click on the search icon at the top, then search by typing in the church's e-mail address office@bccucc.org. Or use this direct link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4aace2aa75-mobile3> When you sign up to bring a listed item, please indicate the quantity you will donate.

If you can't sign up online and want to help, or just have questions, please contact Liz White at 401-245-0285 or lizyw2@aol.com, or Jay or Phyllis Buckley at 401-245-1098 or pbuckley6@cox.net. Donations should be dropped off in the kitchen under the sign "Donations for Loaves and Fishes" by *Wednesday, January 24th*. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

A message from the Renewal Team that the **Church Assessment** from our first consultant is available to read:

Dear members and friends of BCCUCC,

We know this is a busy time of year with all sorts of (hopefully) wonderful events happening. Despite this busyness, we thought it was important to share with you this vital information regarding our church.

As many of you know, we have contracted with the Center for Progressive Renewal to hire consultants to help guide us in planning the future of BCCUCC. Phase 1 was completed in November and we are actively working on moving into Phase 2, which begins with setting short-term and long-term priorities for the our ministry. We will share those priorities as soon as the Church Council sets them. (It should be in mid January.)

In the meantime, we encourage you to read through the Church Assessment we received at the end of Phase 1. We have both a Summary Report, written by the Renewal Team, and the Full Assessment, written by our first consultant. Both are available on the church website at this page: <http://www.bccucc.org/church-life/renewal/>.

Please take the time to read through all this information if you so desire. Your input, passion, and faith are what makes BCCUCC a living thriving community.

Yours in faith,

The Renewal Team

Larry Ashley, Tom Colby, Erik Ela, Marion Fodor, Helen Schall, Heather Williamson, and Rev. Dale Azevedo

Our Church calendar can be viewed online at <http://bccucc.view-events.com> If you have any meetings or activities planned, please send them to office@bccucc.org to be added to the calendar. Also any errors or changes. Thanks.

Sermons on line: If you miss church on Sunday or want to hear the sermon again, you can do so by going to the church website www.bccucc.org and clicking on the post on the home page, or by going to the 'Worship' tab and clicking on 'Sermon Archive' in the drop down menu. Past sermons can also be found there.