

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., Feb 23	10 am 11:20 am 11:20 am	Worship Service, Church School '5 Wishes' discussion, Library Search Committee meeting, Room 6
Mon., Feb 24	11 am 12:30 pm 7:15 pm	Staff Meeting, Jeff's office Bereavement Group, Library Church Council, Room 6
Wed., Feb 26	2:30 pm 4 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Memory Impairment Support Group, Library Mobile Loaves and Fishes food prep and run, Kitchen Marijuana Anonymous meeting, Room 8 Choir Rehearsal, Vestry
Fri., Feb 28	9:30 pm	Collate the Bridge, Room 6
Sat., Mar 1	8:30 am 2:30 pm 3 pm	Conference-side Sharing and Learning Event, Central Congregational Church BCCUCC provides meal for Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket Outside Use of Fellowship Hall
Sun., Mar 2	10 am 10 am 10:15 – 5:30 pm After worship 11:20 am 4:30 pm	Worship Service with Communion Children's Communion in Room 6 followed by Church School OWL session, Library Sing and Celebrate Choir rehearsal, Room 9 Conversations about our church, Room 6 Confirmation Class, Library



Birthdays for the Week of February 23rd

*Cooper Bennet, Ben White, Laurie Lennon,
Pat Gregory, Jeff Larsen, Terrin Strickland,
Carolyn Gammell, Ellen Brady, Summer Lukens, Matt Block,
Greg Knight, Nancy Mattis, & Christopher Tighe.*

Please keep them in your prayers.

DEACONS FOR FEBRUARY

Liz White (Star Deacon), Cheryl Muth, Helen Schall,
Sam Sylvester, and Greg Voigt.

*If in a pastoral emergency after hours you cannot reach
Jeff 247-1727 (home), please contact a deacon.*

March newsletter: The March *Bridge* newsletter is coming out a little later than originally planned. If you still have information for inclusion, send it to Christine at office@bccucc.org by 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thanks.

'5 Wishes' discussion: There is a '5 Wishes' discussion TODAY at 11:20 am in the library. The '5 Wishes' program challenges us to think about end of life issues and provides a way of discussing them with loved ones. All are welcome. Copies of the '5 Wishes' booklet are available from the church office – a \$1 donation is welcomed to cover the cost.

Mobile Loaves and Fishes Truck Run is this Wednesday: Thanks to everyone who has signed up to donate items, help with preparation, or go out with the truck. Many of the slots have been filled but *a few more donations of food items are needed*. Please sign up to donate by Noon TODAY, as items not being donated will need to be purchased this afternoon.

- To sign up on-line go to www.signupgenius.com; click on the 'Find a Sign Up' tab near the top, and then search by typing in the church's e-mail address office@bccucc.org. The next page will list Active SignUps for our church - the only one currently listed is 'Mobile Loaves and Fishes Wed Feb 26'. Click on the link to access the sign up sheet.
- If you can't sign up online and want to help, or just have questions, please contact Jay or Phyllis Buckley at 401-245-1098 or pbuckley6@cox.net.

Donated items need to be dropped off in the church kitchen **no later than 4 pm Wednesday**.

There is also a collection bin in Fellowship Hall for donations of *new or gently used warm clothing* (sweatshirts, sweatpants, winter coats, hats, gloves/mittens, socks), and new underwear. *Small sizes of hygiene items* such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, combs, and shampoo are also being collected. These items all go out on the MLF truck so should also be dropped off by 4 pm on Wednesday at the latest. Thanks to everyone who is making this MLF run happen.

Attention Parents: Next SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND is a communion Sunday and there will be a special Children's Communion led by Rev. Jeff Larsen in Room 6. *All children (PreK – 8th grade) are asked to go straight to Room 6 for their 10 a.m. communion service.* They will then go from there to their classrooms for Church School.

This is also an Our Whole Lives Sunday so the 7th & 8th graders will meet in Room 9 (rather than the Library) for church school.

Conference-wide learning and sharing event: The RI Conference of the UCC is holding a Conference-wide learning and sharing event this SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST from 8:30 am to Noon at Central Congregational Church in Providence. (Snow date, March 8th). Every member of all Rhode Island Conference churches is invited. The event has been organized to provide an opportunity for members of the different churches to get together and share ideas and learn what works in other churches. 12 different sessions are being offered on a variety of different topics. A brochure with details about each of the sessions plus registration forms are available from the vestry hallway, the rack outside the church office and the table at the back of Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this time of sharing, learning and meeting new friends.

'Fill the Ark' for Heifer: During the Lenten season our congregation will raise money to support Heifer International and the less fortunate families they serve. We will join the growing movement "Give Up to Give Back" which strives to end hunger during the season of Lent. We will participate in the "Fill the Ark" program, an interactive and meaningful way to put the sacrificial message of the Lenten season into action. Next Sunday, March 2nd small ark banks and accompanying calendars will be available during coffee hour. Each family is welcome to take ONE ark. By following the daily activities on the calendar the arks will quickly fill with money that will be donated to Heifer. We will launch the program on March 9th and ask that all of the arks be returned on April 6th. We will announce the grand total on Palm Sunday. Visit heifer.org for more information about their organization and this program. Please contact Andrea Bullard if you have any questions (andrea@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 107)

Want to learn more about our church? Then come to 'Conversations about our church' next SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND with Rev. Jeff Larsen from 11:20 a.m. – Noon in the library. It's a great opportunity to learn more about who we are, what we believe and why we do the things we do. The session is open to everyone, especially newcomers, and it is hoped that those interested in joining BCCUCC will attend. However, attendance at Conversations does not require you to become a member. Childcare is provided during 'Conversations' if needed – let the office know ahead of time.

Our next *New Member Sunday* will be APRIL 13TH when we will receive new people into membership of our church. All are invited to become official members, whether you've been coming to church for a few weeks or many years!

The Regina F. Berenback 'Conversations' will take place on SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH from 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The event has a new time and format in the hope that more people will be able to attend. Guest speaker will be Kristin Gourlay, NPR Health Care Reporter, who will talk about and discuss *Health Care in Rhode Island*. A light lunch will be served and all are welcome to this free event that is open to the public.

The Bereavement Group will next meet tomorrow, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH from 12:30-1:30 pm in the church library. The group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and new members are always welcome. Questions? Contact Betsy Brenner at jsbeeb@aol.com or 245-8031.

Book Group next meets on MONDAY, MARCH 17TH at 7 p.m. at The Coffee Depot, 501 Main Street, Warren. All are welcome! They will discuss the book *A Lady Cyclist's Guide to Kashgar* by Suzanne Joinson. "Present and past meld into an exploration of conflicting traditions in an impressive debut that shifts smoothly between 1920s Turkestan and present-day England." For more info on the group contact Helen Schall at 245-4724 or helenschall@hotmail.com

UCC New England Women's Celebration IX will take place in Portland, Maine from FRI – SUN, MARCH 28TH - 30TH and includes worship, workshops and forums, keynote speakers, music, Bible study, *Connections* (workshop for youth age 14+) and more.... For more information or to register visit www.uccwomenscelebration.org or pick up a brochure from the vestry table or the back of Fellowship Hall. *Registration closes March 15th*. Helen Schall will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Collection of hats, scarves etc: For those who can't attend but want to be a part of the New England Women's Celebration IX (see above), there will be a collection box at church for the donation of items for the mission focus of the Celebration. Attendees have been invited to take hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and new white socks which will be given to Grace Street Ministries for their work with the homeless in Portland, ME. Please help them by donating these items.