

# CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The church office is open Monday – Friday from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm*

Sun, Dec 16		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>BCCUCC Family Christmas Spectacular!</b>
	10 am	Worship Service for All Ages, with Cantata from the choir, Nursery Care Only
	At coffee hour	Cookies, Crafts and Cocoa, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Youth Group go caroling followed by ‘White Elephant’ gift exchange at church
Mon, Dec 17	11 am	Bereavement Group, Library
	7 pm	Mindful Monday with Lighting of Advent Wreath at 7:50 pm, Meditation Room
Tue, Dec 18	11 am	Staff Meeting, Dale’s office
	11:30 am	Book Group, The Coffee Depot in Warren
Wed, Dec 19	Noon	<i>Deadline for eBridge</i>
	2 pm	Communion Service at Atria Senior Living
	7:30 – 9 pm	Choir rehearsal, Vestry
Thurs, Dec 20	Noon	Women’s Faith Group Christmas Lunch, Trafford’s Restaurant
	3 – 5 pm	Community Office Hours, The Coffee Depot
Fri, Dec 21		<i>Brendan on call for pastoral emergencies</i>
Sun, Dec 23		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <i>UCC Christmas Fund Offering</i>
	10 am	Worship Service, Church School (Pageant Prep)
	11:30 am – 12:45 pm	Pageant Rehearsal for Cast (puppeteers and speaking roles), Sanctuary
Mon, Dec 24		<b>Christmas Eve - Office Closed</b>
	5 pm	Final Pageant Rehearsal for Cast, Sanctuary
	6 pm	Family Worship Service with Pageant, Sanctuary
	10 pm	Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols with choir and handbells, Sanctuary
Tues, Dec 25		<b>Christmas Day - Office Closed</b>



**Birthdays for the Week of December 16<sup>th</sup>** Kim Colby, John Faulhaber, David MacMillan, Cam Voigt, Christian Odjakjian, Ozzie Rosenholm, Lynne Githens. Please keep them in your prayers.

If your birthday doesn’t appear, please contact us at [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org) or 246-0111 so we can update the database.

**DEC. DEACONS:** Jon Stabach (star), Abby Ashley, Chris Brady, Bernie Hawes, Carol Strakosch, and Kim Zeleznik. In the event of a pastoral emergency, if you cannot reach Dale (860) 301-6762 or Brendan (318-2447) please call on a deacon.

**Pew Pals:** Located halfway up the stairs as you come into the sanctuary are baskets of “Pew Pals” for children who would like some company during their time in the service. Please return them to the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

**Welcome Folders:** If you’re new to our church, we extend a warm welcome and invite you to pick up a blue Welcome Folder from the racks half way up the stairs to the sanctuary. We also invite you to join us for refreshments after the service at coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, located at the far end of the Education Building. We’re glad that you’re here.

**The Mitten Tree** is in the narthex again TODAY, ready to receive your donations of warm hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens etc. - both purchased and hand-made - for children, youth, and adults of all sizes. *Donations may be made through December 23<sup>rd</sup>.* Items on the mitten tree will be donated to Loaves and Fishes RI and to Amos House.

**Giving Tree – deadline is TODAY:** Mission and 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, etc. The gift cards will be given to the Women's Resource Center to help families there afford the necessities, and also allow the women to have money to purchase gifts for their families and themselves. Contact Nancy Arena at [nancy.arena@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.arena@outlook.com) or 246-0212 for more information or with questions. Thanks to all who have made a donation.

**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. *Deadline for donations is tomorrow, Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.*

**December Youth Group Meeting/Caroling:** The youth group (for anyone in Grades 6-12) will meet TODAY after church, following the “Family Christmas Spectacular”. After refreshments we will gather in Rm 9 and depart for caroling at Noon to a couple of nursing homes in the area. When we return from caroling we will have our own party with a “white elephant” gift exchange where everyone brings a repurposed gift to swap. Christmas cookies will be provided!

**Candle Lighters needed:** Volunteers are needed to read the short liturgy and light the Advent Candles on SUNDAY, DEC 23<sup>RD</sup> at the 10 am service and on CHRISTMAS EVE at the 6 and 10 pm services. Volunteers should contact Rev. Dale Azevedo at (401) 246-0111 x 103 or [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org) Individuals, couples or families are invited to do this.

**Christmas Eve Readers needed:** Additional volunteers are needed to read scripture at the 10 pm CHRISTMAS EVE Service of Lessons and Carols. If interested, contact Rev. Dale Azevedo at (401) 246-0111 x 103 or [dale@bccucc.org](mailto:dale@bccucc.org)

**Giving Card Reminder:** Thank you to the 112 households who have completed a Giving Card with their financial commitment to support BCCUCC in 2019. If you haven’t yet done so but intend to return a Giving Card for 2019, please do so a.s.a.p. Our Finance Team and Church Council are working to finalize the 2019 budget and many of their decisions are based on these financial commitments. If you need a new Giving Card they are available from the rack outside the office and from the Vestry table. Completed cards may be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate. You may also email our Financial Secretary, Pat Stoddard at [pat@bccucc.org](mailto:pat@bccucc.org) with your financial commitment for 2019, and she will confirm receipt of your email and the amount. Thank you.

**Bereavement Group** meets MONDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> at 11 am in the library. The group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one at any time. More information from facilitator Betsy Brenner at [jsbeeb@aol.com](mailto:jsbeeb@aol.com) or 245-8031.

**Lighting the way to Christmas:** During Advent Brendan is incorporating the lighting of Advent candles into “Mindful Mondays.” Every Monday at 7:50 pm we will read an Advent scripture, a psalm, and light a candle on the Advent wreath in Room 8 (the Meditation Room.) You are welcome to come for the full hour (7 – 8 pm) or if you’d simply like to join in for the lighting of the candles you are welcome to do so at 7:50 pm. Please respect the quiet, contemplative space as the intention is to hold space to honor the sacred and find a moment of peace together amidst the busyness of the season.

**Mindful Monday** will take place on MONDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> (see above). It will then take a break for several weeks due to the holidays and then Brendan being away at continuing education. They will resume on MONDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>.

**Book Group** meets TUES, DEC 18<sup>TH</sup> at 11:30 am at the Coffee Depot, Warren, to discuss *Best Cook in the World* by Rick Bragg: For more info about the group, contact Helen Schall at [helenschall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenschall@hotmail.com) or 245-4724. All are welcome!

**Community Office Hours:** Anyone from the church or community is invited to stop by The Coffee Depot, 501 Main Street, Warren on THURSDAYS from 3–5 pm to visit with Brendan in this more informal setting. All are welcome. *Please note that there will be NO community office hours on Thursdays, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.*

**Women’s Faith Group Christmas Lunch** is at Trafford’s Restaurant in Warren on THURS, DEC 20<sup>TH</sup> at noon. RSVP to Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net) or the office at 246-0111 or [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org) by Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**UCC Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross** special offering will be taken NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>. This is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who have served as our clergy and are now disabled, retired or financially strained. The gift provides pension supplements, health premium subsidies, emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families, and Christmas checks to hundreds of retirees and to those who are disabled. With our gift we offer thanks to our pastors who have instructed and encouraged us in faith through the years. Many thanks!

**Cast Rehearsal for Pageant:** People with puppet, narration, or speaking roles (cast members) will rehearse the pageant after church next SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> from 11:30 am - 12:45 pm. We will read through the pageant first, then walk through the pageant with the puppets. If you are a puppet or have a speaking role you need to attend this rehearsal. On CHRISTMAS EVE, those with puppet, narration, or speaking roles have a final rehearsal which will begin promptly at 5 pm to allow sufficient time for a run-through before the congregation starts arriving for the 6 pm service.

**Pageant Rehearsal for Church School children:** Church school aged kids of all ages have the opportunity to participate in the pageant at the 6 pm service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal for church school children (who aren't a puppeteer or a scripture reader) will happen during church school time next SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>. These children are also asked to be in church with their families by 5:45 pm on Christmas Eve.

**Come in costume:** The 6 pm Christmas Eve pageant will once again include congregational participation. People of all ages are asked to dress up as a character from the nativity and come forward at the appropriate times during the pageant.

**Staff Christmas Gift:** *A message from Dale and Brendan...* “During the 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.” Checks should be made payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'Staff Gift'. They can be put in the offering plate or sent to the office.

**Christmas Eve Services** at our church will be held MONDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>. We hope you’ll be able to join us.

**6 pm** - Family Service with Pageant featuring the large puppets. The congregation (of all ages) has the option to come dressed as a character from the nativity (Mary, Joseph, shepherd, wise person, animal etc)

**10 pm** - Traditional service of Lessons and Carols with music from the vocal choir, oboist, and a handbell solo.

**Warm clothing needed for Loaves and Fishes RI:** Our church will be sponsoring another Loaves and Fishes RI truck run on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> (see below). In preparation, we are collecting warm clothing to give out to those in need and we're seeking donations of new or gently used adult warm clothing. This includes hats, gloves, scarves, socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants etc. There is a bin on the stage in Fellowship Hall for your donations. Thank you.

**Loaves and Fishes Truck Run – help needed:** We will be taking out the Loaves and Fishes RI truck to Trinity Methodist Church and Crossroads in Providence on WEDNESDAY, DEC 26<sup>TH</sup>. Prep starts in the kitchen around 4:30 pm to prepare food and load the truck. All ages are welcome to help with food prep, but we ask that those going out on the truck be at least age 16. Donations of specific food and clothing items are requested. To volunteer to donate items, help with prep or go out on the truck visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4aacae2aa75-mobile3>. Please remember to indicate the quantity of a food item you are able to donate. For more information, questions, or if you are unable to sign up on line to donate items or help with prep etc, please contact Liz White (401-245-0285 or [lizzyw2@aol.com](mailto:lizzyw2@aol.com)) or Phyllis Buckley (401-742-7320 or [pbuckley6@cox.net](mailto:pbuckley6@cox.net)). Thank you for your support of this important outreach ministry.

**Donations needed for Haiti trip:** Church members Rev. Jennifer Geary and her husband, Bud, will be heading to Haiti with a group from the RICUCC Haiti Task Force in January where they’ll be painting the school and orphanage. Donations are being sought to purchase the paint and painting supplies, or folks can donate supplies. They will buy the paint in Haiti but will be taking all the supplies over in their luggage. Contact Rev. Geary at [jenngeary@hotmail.com](mailto:jenngeary@hotmail.com)

**The Kid’s Clothing Swap is recruiting musicians!** To make this thriving family event at our church even more exuberant, the clothing swap organizers are looking for musicians of all varieties to come share their talent and provide music for the clothing swappers. If you have a singing voice, sing with a group, play an instrument, or have a musical talent of any kind that you’d like to share, this is a chance for you to enrich a community event with your gifts. Contact Meghan Sheehan [megsheehan@gmail.com](mailto:megsheehan@gmail.com) and Brendan [brendan@bccucc.org](mailto:brendan@bccucc.org) to coordinate!

**Don’t forget to shop through AmazonSmile** where every eligible purchase you make on Amazon will raise 0.5% of the purchase price for our church. To learn more visit <http://smile.amazon.com> and choose ‘Barrington Congregational Church’ as your charitable organization. The church receives a quarterly deposit from Amazon!

**Our complete Church calendar** can be viewed online from our website or directly at <http://bccucc.view-events.com>