

# 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 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	Service of Lessons and Carols with choir, trumpet, oboe and handbells
Tues, Dec 25		<b>Christmas Day - Office Closed</b>
Wed, Dec 26		<i>Office Closed</i>
	4:30 pm	Loaves and Fishes RI prep in kitchen, then take truck to Providence
Thurs, Dec 27		<i>Office open 9:30 am – 12:30 pm only</i>
Fri, Dec 28		<i>Dale on call for pastoral emergencies</i> <i>Office open 9:30 am – 12:30 pm only</i>
	4:30 pm	Wedding rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat, Dec 29	2:30 pm	Wedding (Dwyer/Jablonski), Sanctuary
Sun, Dec 30		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas / Watchnight</b>
	10 am	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery Care only
Mon, Dec 31		<b>New Year's Eve - Office open 9:30 am – 12:30 pm only</b>
Tues, Jan 1, 2019		<b>New Year's Day - Office Closed</b>



**Birthdays for the Week of December 23<sup>rd</sup>** *Evan Anderson, Steve Fodor, Carol Louttit, Andrew Todd, Stephanie Edwards, Victor Fernandez, Aline Boulais-Coelho, Nancy Voigt, and Carolyn Materne.*  
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 down the stairs. 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.

**UCC Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross** special offering is being taken TODAY. 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. Special envelopes are included in today's bulletin. Please make checks payable to 'BCCUCC' and mark the memo line 'Christmas Fund'. Thank you.

**The Mitten Tree** is in the narthex for the last time TODAY, 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. TODAY is the deadline for donations. Items on the mitten tree are being donated to Loaves and Fishes RI and to Amos House.

**Cast Rehearsal for Pageant:** People with puppet, narration, or speaking roles (cast members) will rehearse the pageant after church TODAY 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 younger children:** Church school aged kids of all ages have the opportunity to participate in the pageant at the 6 pm service on Christmas Eve. TODAY during church school time they'll rehearse a song and make a craft. These children are also asked to be in church with their families by 5:45 pm on Christmas Eve.

**Come in costume to the 6 pm Christmas Eve service** as it will once again include congregational participation. People of all ages are invited to come dressed as a character from the nativity (Mary, Joseph, shepherd, wise person, sheep, donkey etc) and come forward at the appropriate times during the pageant and be part of our living nativity.

**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.

**Church Office Hours over the holidays:** Check the calendar above for details.

**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.

**10 pm** - Traditional service of Lessons and Carols with music from the vocal choir, trumpet, oboe, and handbells.

**Warm clothing needed for Loaves and Fishes RI:** Our church is doing another Loaves and Fishes RI truck run on WED, DEC 26<sup>TH</sup> (see below). We are collecting new or gently used adult warm clothing to give out to those in need. This includes hats, gloves, scarves, socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants etc. - a collection bin is on the stage of Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone who has donated warm clothing – it will be greatly appreciated by those who receive the items.

**Loaves and Fishes Truck Run – additional help needed:** We will be taking out the Loaves and Fishes RI truck to Trinity Methodist Church and Crossroads in Providence on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to help. Additional specific food and clothing items are still needed – find out which from the online sign up sheet at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4aacae2aa75-mobile3>. Please remember to indicate the quantity of a food item you are able to donate. 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 those going out on the truck must be at least age 16. 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 [lizyw2@aol.com](mailto:lizyw2@aol.com)) or Phyllis Buckley (401-742-7320 or [pbuckley6@cox.net](mailto:pbuckley6@cox.net)).

**Community Office Hours:** No community office hours Dec 27<sup>th</sup> and Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. They resume on THURS, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>.

**Mindful Mondays** are taking a break over the holidays and then Brendan will be away. They resume on MON, JAN 14<sup>TH</sup>.

**Are you coming to worship on December 30<sup>th</sup>?** If you are coming to church the Sunday after Christmas, we have a special request. Dale is inviting everyone who is attending worship on 12/30 to bring an item from home with them that represents an experience of yours from the past year or your hopes for the year to come. We will utilize these items in worship in a special way. The item you bring can be anything from a paperclip, to a stuffed animal, to a garden trowel. As long as it represents something meaningful to you, you are invited to bring it! And don't worry, if you forget, we will have stand in items for you. Children are invited to bring something and participate too. Come join us for worship on December 30<sup>th</sup> and have a moving meaningful time together.

**Giving Card Reminder:** Thank you to the 116 households who have completed a Giving Card with their financial commitment to support BCCUCC in 2019. If you'd like to fill out a card, letting us know what you plan to give next year, it's not too late, but please do so a.s.a.p. Our Finance Team and Church Council are finalizing the 2019 budget and many of their decisions are based on the congregation's financial commitments on their giving card. New cards 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.

**Giving reminder for tax purposes:** If you wish any contribution to be recorded as being received by the church in 2018, it must be in the hands of the church office by MONDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, or postmarked by that date.

**'From the River's Edge':** The latest blog is 'Finding the Light Together' by Brendan. It can be read on the church website [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org), on Facebook, or in the eBridge. Printed copies are on the table at the back of Fellowship Hall.

**Women's Faith Group** next meets THURS, JAN 3<sup>RD</sup> from 1:30 – 3 pm in the library. The group welcomes women of all ages from BCCUCC as well as other churches and faiths. For more info contact Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or [jtonn2@cox.net](mailto:jtonn2@cox.net)

**Feasting at Fireside:** Elizabeth and Dale Azevedo are hosting another dinner for 6 at the parsonage on THURS, JAN 3<sup>RD</sup> from 6 – 8 pm. There is currently room for 2 more. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4eaba823a6f85-feasting>, or contact the church office 246-0111 if you are unable to sign up online.

**Bereavement Group** meets MONDAY, JANUARY 7<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.

**Knitting for Others Group** meets TUES, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> from 7 – 9 pm at the home of Marion Fodor, 12 Katie Drive, Warren. The group meets monthly and makes a variety of different items to be given away (prayer shawls, preemie hats, etc). All knitters/crocheters welcome, especially new faces! RSVP to Marion at [smfodor@cox.net](mailto:smfodor@cox.net) or 245-2003 so she sets out enough chairs! For more info about the group, contact Mary Lou Slicker at (245-0085 [rislick@fullchannel.net](mailto:rislick@fullchannel.net)).

**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)

**A huge THANK YOU** to everyone who made the BCCUCC Family Christmas Spectacular such a big success! Almost 200 people attended church last Sunday and heard our choir and musicians give a wonderful and energetic rendition of *Joy! A Gospel Christmas Celebration*. Following the service, all were invited to enjoy cookies, cocoa and make fun crafts over in Fellowship Hall. Many people were involved in making everything happen – thanks to each and every one of you! Check out photos and videos at [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org) – click on the link 'Boy, was that spectacular!!' on the home page.

**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! The clothing swaps take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 9:30 – 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

**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>