

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 9		Second Sunday of Advent
	9 am	Renewal Group, Library
	10 am	Worship Service, Church School
	11:20 am – 12:30 pm	SPRT meeting, Dale's Office
Mon, Dec 10	11 am	Lay Visitation Meeting, Library
	7 pm	Buildings and Grounds meeting, Room 6
	7 pm	Mindful Monday with Lighting of Advent Wreath, Meditation Room
Tue, Dec 11	11 am	Staff Meeting, Dale's office
	7 pm	Church Council, Room 6
Wed, Dec 12	7:30 – 9 pm	Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Cantata, Sanctuary
Thurs, Dec 13	Noon – 3 pm	Office Closed (Staff Christmas Lunch)
	3 – 5 pm	Community Office Hours, The Coffee Depot
Fri, Dec 14		<i>Dale on call for pastoral emergencies</i>
Sat, Dec 15	9:30 – 11:30 am	East Bay Kids Clothes Swap, Fellowship Hall
	2:45 pm	BCCUCC Volunteers leave for Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket
	7:30 pm	Barrington High School Jazz Band Holiday Concert, Sanctuary
Sun, Dec 16		Third Sunday of Advent
		BCCUCC Family Christmas Spectacular!
	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 m – 1:30 pm	Youth Group go caroling followed by 'White Elephant' gift exchange at church



Birthdays for the Week of December 9th *Holly Meade, Robert Slye, Bill Ward, Dave Gregory, Amelia De La Torre, Wyatt Porter, and Sydney Zarlengo..* 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.

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 23rd.* Items on the mitten tree will be donated to Loaves and Fishes RI and to Amos House.

Giving Tree: Mission and Justice's "Giving Tree" is in Fellowship Hall again 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. Donations need to be made *by next Sunday, December 16th.* Contact Nancy Arena at nancy.arena@outlook.com or 246-0212 for more information or with questions.

Chancel Fund: Donation forms with all of the information together with special envelopes are included in the bulletins the first 3 Sundays of Advent, which includes TODAY's bulletin. *Deadline for donations is Monday, December 17th.*

Candle Lighters needed: Volunteers are needed to read the short liturgy and light the Advent Candles on SUNDAYS, DEC 16TH AND 23RD 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 Individuals, couples or families are invited to do this.

Christmas Eve Readers needed: 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

Casting Call for 6 pm Christmas Eve Pageant: Volunteers needed - see insert in today's bulletin for all the details.

Giving Card Reminder: Thank you to the 104 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 with your financial commitment for 2019, and she will confirm receipt of your email and the amount. Thank you.

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.

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.

Deadline for 2018 reimbursable expenses: The end of our fiscal period is December 31st. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out vouchers (which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team) and send them to the church office, with receipts attached, *by Friday, December 14th*. Vouchers are available from a folder on Pat's desk in the church office. Expenses turned in after the deadline will be charged to next year's budget.

Soup Kitchen – help needed: Membership and Finance are responsible for the Soup Kitchen this SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH. If you are able to help by donating or helping to serve, we would appreciate it. All food donations should be marked "12/15/18 Soup Kitchen" and left in the BCC kitchen *by 2:30 pm on Sat, Dec 15th*. Servers should be at BCC UCC by 2:45 that day to retrieve all soup kitchen foods and be at the Park Place Church by 3:15. We will assemble the sandwiches and prepare the tables and plates at the Soup Kitchen. We should be finished and ready to return to BCC UCC by 4:45-5:00. Sign up to help at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084da4ab2caafb6-soup> or contact Elizabeth Azevedo at eazevedo17@gmail.com or (860) 301-2915.

East Bay Kids Clothes Swap is a place to trade in clean (non-stained) clothes and shoes, and get clothes the next size up for newborn to age 12 years old. The next one is this SATURDAY, DEC 15TH from 9:30 - 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Give what you can, take what you need! There's a \$3-\$5 donation at the door but no one will be turned away. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/EastBayKidsClothesSwap/> Open to the community.

Holiday Jazz Concert: The Barrington High School Jazz band will give a concert of holiday music in our sanctuary on SATURDAY, DEC 15TH at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. All proceeds support the Barrington High School Jazz band and the 2019 BCCUCC Youth Service Trip. Come enjoy great talent and support our youth.

BCCUCC's Family Christmas Spectacular! Next SUNDAY, DEC 16TH at 10 am. See insert in today's bulletin for details.

December Youth Group Meeting/Caroling: The youth group (for anyone in Grades 6-12) will meet next SUN, DEC 16TH after church, following the "Family Christmas Spectacular" (see above). After refreshments we will gather in Rm 9 and depart for caroling at 12 pm 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. Maybe you were given a gift in the past that you would like to re-gift. Maybe you have something you like but would be willing to offer to someone else as a Christmas gift. Come celebrate the Christmas season together! Christmas cookies will be provided!

Bereavement Group next meets MONDAY, DECEMBER 17TH 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 or 245-8031.

Book Group meets TUES, DEC 18TH 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 or 245-4724. All are welcome!

Women's Faith Group Christmas Lunch is at Trafford's Restaurant in Warren on THURS, DEC 20TH at noon. RSVP to Jane Tonn at 289-2349 or jtonn2@cox.net or the office at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org by Tuesday, December 18th.

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 24TH. 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 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 26TH (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 26TH. 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) or Phyllis Buckley (401-742-7320 or pbuckley6@cox.net). Thank you for your support of this important outreach ministry.

Make money for the church while Christmas shopping: You can raise money for our church when you shop online by shopping at **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!

'From the River's Edge': The latest blog is 'O, Worship the Migrant!' written by Dale. It can be read on the church website www.bccucc.org, on Facebook, or in the eBridge. Printed copies are on the table at the back of Fellowship Hall.

Haiti Trip: The RIUCC Haitian Task Force is planning a trip to Haiti from JAN 9-15, 2019. Suzanne Swanson will be both coordinating and going and the cost of flights has gone down. She will make reservations at the Auberge Hotel. Anyone interested can call Trish Sylvester at (401) 297-0390 or email Suzanne at suzanneswanson12@yahoo.com

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

BCCUCC's

Family Christmas Spectacular!



Cocoa, Crafts, Cookies, & Cantata

Sunday, December 16th

10 am



Next Sunday, December 16th, the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, will host its Family Christmas Spectacular!

The festivities begin with a special service at **10:00 AM**, where the BCCUCC choir, along with special musical guests, will present the cantata

Joy! A Gospel Christmas, by Joel Raney.

This upbeat and powerful telling of the Christmas story delights audiences with Christmas carols like you've never heard before interspersed with scripture readings on the theme of joy. People of all ages are welcome to stay in worship and enjoy the production, but childcare and special children's activities are available for those who need to get their wiggles out.

At **11:00 AM**, everyone is invited to retire to our Fellowship Hall for **cookies, crafts, and hot cocoa!**

Listen to your favorite carols, enjoy the Christmas decorations, and nibble on holiday favorites while making family crafts that you can take home!

The whole community is welcome to share in this special day to help get us all in the Christmas spirit. Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

* * * * *

Volunteers needed for 6 pm Christmas Eve Pageant

We need 19 volunteers to operate a puppet or have a speaking role in the pageant - and we need to determine our volunteers **by Monday, December 10th**.

Please contact Brendan, as soon as possible to reserve your part! (Or be recruited!) You can reach him at 401-318-2447 or brendan@bccucc.org. If you have operated one of the large puppets in the past you are especially encouraged to return to your role this year as experience is valued and beneficial. However, we also welcome new people to participate.

CAST

Unless otherwise indicated all parts below are open to kids age 10 and up. Puppet roles have stars *** next to them.

Angel Puppet: *** 3 strong high school students or adults operate this larger puppet

Mary *** This is a large puppet - we need a teenager or an adult

Joseph *** This is also a large puppet - we need a teenager or an adult

3 Wise Men/Kings *** We need one high school aged person or an adult to operate the three kings puppet and two people willing to dress elegantly in royal attire to attend the three kings.

3 Sheep *** 3 people fifth grade and up - we need one large adult sized sheep, a medium sized person sheep, and a little sheep! We need lively sheep with strong personalities! Must be able to baaaahh loudly and ham up the sheep role!

3 Shepherds We need adults or high schoolers to be shepherds to guide our sheep... literally. The sheep can't see where they are going in the sheep puppets.

Narrator age 12 and up

4 Scripture Readers

3 Innkeepers



REHEARSALS

Church school aged kids of all ages have the opportunity to participate in the pageant. Rehearsal for church school children (who aren't a puppeteer or a scripture reader) will happen *during church school time* on **Sunday, December 23rd**. These children are also asked to be in church with their families *by 5:45 pm* on **Christmas Eve**.

People with **puppet, narration, or speaking roles** (Cast members) will rehearse the pageant after church on **Sunday, December 23rd** 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 Dec 23rd 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 service.