

A Guide to Christian Education & Youth Ministry at BCCUCC 2019-2020



The Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.
is a Christian community that worships God,
embraces all people, ministers to one another,
works for justice and peace,
and renders loving service to God's world.

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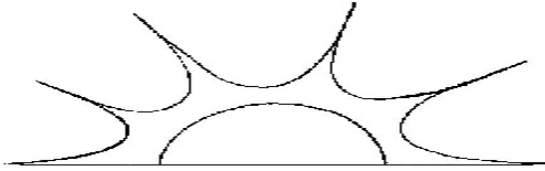
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Extra copies of this guide are available online (www.bccucc.org) or at the church office. If you'd like to share one with a friend, please let us know and we'll be happy to give you more copies for you to pass along.



September 2019

Christian Education of young people involves partnerships between many individuals: parents, church members, children and youth, lay leaders, ministers, and staff. While faith education happens every day at home, we also know how important it is that Sunday mornings anchor children, youth, and families in faith.

Please take some time to review this helpful guide. It includes important information about upcoming events and how you can participate in CEYM programs.

See you at church!

With joy,

Andrea Bullard
C.E. Coordinator

Brendan Curran
Associate Minister

CEYM Mission Statement

The purpose of the work of the Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team of the Barrington Congregational Church UCC is to provide a safe space for children, youth and adults to:

- worship and wonder
- play and pray
- share and serve
- learn, lament, laugh and LOVE!

We seek to create community where children experience acceptance and belonging. We are dedicated to providing a place where young people can develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally into all God calls them to be now and in the future.

Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team

Goals for Educating our Children and Youth

- **Nursery:** Loving care is provided to all children ages 0-3 years. (see page 7)
- **PreK – 1st grade:** All children will wonder about core stories from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), New Testament, and the origins of Christian traditions, including the sacraments of Baptism and Communion through the Godly Play program. (see page 9)
- **2nd – 4th Grades:** The Deep Blue Rotation Stations curriculum, which this group will be using, captures the imagination of the children by bringing the Bible to life. (see page 9)
- **5th – 6th Grades:** This group will be exploring the Bible and how individual stories fit together into larger biblical themes using the Connect curriculum. (see page 10)
- **7th – 8th Grades:** Our Seekers and Peace Makers program focuses on faith formation and spirited discussion. (see page 10)
- **Youth in Grades 6-12** are encouraged to participate in the Youth Group (YG) for service projects, social and faith development. (see pages 13 & 14)
- **Grade 9:** Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward adulthood in which an individual takes responsibility for shaping his/her own values and faith. Confirmands are encouraged to attend all church services. Also Youth Group (YG) is available for service projects, social and faith development. (see page 12)
- **Grades 10-12:** Youth who have completed confirmation are encouraged to participate in Youth Group, volunteer opportunities and mission outreach by assisting in the nursery and classrooms, with CEYM events and by preparing for and participating in mission trips. (see pages 13 - 15)
- **The CEYM Team** has implemented Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education (OWL) for Grades 7 - 12. This year the program will be offered to 10th – 12th graders and next year it will be offered to the 7th & 8th graders. (see page 11)



Be sure to come back home for 'Open Doors Sunday' on **September 8th**! Whether we call it Gathering, Homecoming, or any other Sunday, it's the day we welcome back our families (of all types and sizes) and kick off our new program year!

It's also a day that we especially open our doors to visitors and newcomers who are looking to start the school year off by finding a new church. So be sure to invite your neighbors and friends!

Open Doors Sunday will be a blast with a family-friendly inter-generational worship service at **10 a.m.**, followed by fun, food, and ice cream! We will once again have an ice cream truck but will also be adding a bouncy house and a "dunk-the-pastor" booth. Yes, Brendan and Dale will both be getting wet that day! So come home and join us for the worship service specially designed for all ages, and reconnect with your church family. We're looking forward to seeing you!



Schedule for Open Doors Sunday - September 8th

From 9:30 a.m. before worship and again after worship, **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION** will take place at the table in the foyer to Fellowship Hall (see page 5)

10:00 a.m. **ALL AGES WORSHIP SERVICE** and Dedication of the Volunteers who work with our children and youth. Nursery Care is provided. (see page 7)

After Worship: **COFFEE HOUR** in Fellowship Hall. **ICE CREAM TRUCK** with complimentary frozen treats, **BOUNCY HOUSE**, and "**DUNK THE PASTOR**" booth.

11:30 a.m. **OWL PARENT ORIENTATION** (see page 11)

Sunday Mornings at BCCUCC GENERAL INFORMATION

Church School Registration

We require that a registration form be completed for EACH CHILD who participates in our CEYM programs. To register a child, please obtain a registration form from the church office, download one from the website www.bccucc.org or pick one up from the registration table in the foyer to Fellowship Hall on Sept 8th or 15th.



If you registered your child last year all you have to do is update your form on Open Doors Sunday. The information you provide helps us provide safe and welcoming programs for children and youth. Thank you!

***Regular Church School classes begin on
Sunday, Sept. 15th, 2019.***

Is there a registration fee for Church School?

Everyone is welcome to participate in church school programs regardless of economic status, ability to contribute, or amount of pledge. We do not charge a registration fee. However, in addition to countless volunteer hours, church members and friends prayerfully discern an amount to contribute to the church in the form of a pledge to the annual budget (the budget includes building expenses, church staff, outreach, and education programs). Please call the church office if you'd like to begin making a pledge or would like to give an additional donation directly to Christian Education programs.

While we do not charge a monetary fee, we expect parents to participate in the classrooms in various volunteer capacities. **Every week it takes 10 volunteers to conduct church school.** If every family were to fill several of these slots throughout the year, we would be blessed. For volunteer training information, please see the *Volunteering at BCCUCC* page at the end of this handbook.

How Church School Happens

- Come on Sunday morning for 10:00 a.m. worship;
- Bring children 4 or older to worship for the first 15 minutes; parents bring younger children directly to Nursery prior to 10:00;
- After the “Children’s Message”, **the children will meet their teachers or assistants in the vestry downstairs and be escorted to the Education Building;**
- Church school lessons finish at approximately 11:10 a.m. to allow time for parents to transition from worship to coffee hour. **Parents are asked to pick-up children directly from classrooms** at 11:10 when the lesson has concluded. Children will not be released to roam the halls without parent pick-up. Please be mindful about not disturbing the class until the lesson has ended. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

All Ages Worship Services

On select Sundays throughout the year (Sep. 8th, Oct. 13th, Nov. 10th, Dec. 1st, 2019; Jan. 19th, Feb. 16th, Apr. 5th, & May 17th, 2020), we will be having our new and improved All Ages Worship Services. These services will be specially designed to be multigenerational and child-friendly opportunities to spend the entire worship time together. Church school will not be offered, but there will be special opportunities for the children to participate in or even help lead worship. Nursery care will be available for the littlest ones. We really encourage you to attend these services as they are wonderful chances to praise the God together in a family friendly way!



Nursery Care ~ Birth to Three Years Old



Christian nurture is provided every Sunday morning in our nursery for the youngest among us. Please note that nursery volunteers will find parents if a diaper needs to be changed or for any other reason deemed necessary.

Communion Sundays

On the first Sunday of every month, we share communion together in the sanctuary. All children and adults are welcome to participate and receive communion.



Baptism

Please contact the church office if you are interested in having your infant or child baptized.

Offering

We believe it is important that children learn the importance of stewardship of church & community. Children's Offering is received in your child's classroom. Each year, the proceeds help to sponsor a girl (Rinchen Lhamu) who is a student at the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Center in India. The CEYM team has been supporting her via the UCC Global Ministries for the last four years. Children's offering envelopes will be available at the registration table on Gathering Sunday, in each classroom, and in the pew racks.



SING & CELEBRATE CHOIR

BCCUCC has a children's choir for children in grades 1-5, but also welcomes older children who want to sing. This is a wonderful way for young people to learn to sing in a choir and to actively participate in the worship service. Rehearsals for the Sing & Celebrate Choir are immediately after the worship service.



For more information please contact Kate Colby kcolby@fullchannel.net and/or the Choir Director, Marina Zabinski marinazab62@yahoo.com

PRE K - 1ST GRADE



Godly Play teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence & liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Godly Play...

...is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture.

...is based on long established, tried and tested approaches.

...encourages participants to make meaning for themselves by inviting them into stories and providing the opportunity for them to connect the stories with their personal experience.

...is a non-coercive way to encourage people to move into larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering questions and open-ended response time.

...values process, openness and discovery.

...respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God.

Visit www.godlyplayfoundation.org to learn more.

2ND - 4TH GRADES

The 2nd through 4th grade group will be immersed in the Bible stories by using the **Deep Blue Rotation Stations** Curriculum. By using a rotation format where the children alternate between learning stations each week, they are engaged in Bible stories and characters through art, cooking, games, missions, storytelling/drama and spiritual practices. Each story will remain the same for three Sundays, but the children will encounter it in three different ways through the different stations. Repetition is an important part of Deep Blue.



5TH & 6TH GRADES



A Bible-centered curriculum, **Connect**, takes 5th and 6th graders on a journey through the Old Testament and into the New Testament exploring the connections between several stories each week. Every

lesson follows a three-part sequence: see, explore, and more. The children focus on and reinforce a theme by exploring biblical text, watching a brief & witty video, and creating projects that range from games to art and more.

7TH & 8TH GRADES

SEEKERS & PEACEMAKERS

A Sunday Morning Program focusing on faith exploration, spirited discussion, and service to others.

Each year, the Seekers group rotates between service activities, Nooma series discussion (nooma.com), and an exploration of world religions. This year the group will explore spiritual practices from across the country and the globe. With an ecumenical and interfaith focus, this program will explore and celebrate several religious traditions in a way that is intended to grow curious, respectful, and inclusive seekers and believers. We will learn about the beliefs, rituals, prayers, worship and people of various traditions worldwide.



OUR WHOLE LIVES — SEXUALITY & OUR FAITH

Offered in the Fall of 2019
for Grades 10 - 12



Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of comprehensive sexuality education resources written by human sexuality educators appropriate for use in a variety of congregational, school, and community settings. Core values of OWL include self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity.

The OWL trained facilitators are all church members: Kristen Westmoreland M.D., M.P.H.; Ray Zarlengo M.D.; Cathleen Joachim; Kathy Sullivan; Carol Strakosch; Paul Roberti; Associate Minister Brendan Curran; and CE Coordinator Andrea Bullard.

For more information or to sign up, contact Andrea Bullard at andrea@bccucc.org or at (401) 246.0111 x107.

OWL Parent Orientation:

Sunday, September 8th, 2019
from 11:30 am – 12:30 in the library.

OWL Sessions:

will be held from 10 am – 4 pm in the church library
on the following Sundays:
September 15th, October 20th,
November 3rd, November 17th,
& December 8th, 2019.

Learn more about OWL at

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html>

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Grade 9 & up



Confirmation marks a step in the spiritual journey when a young person takes responsibility for shaping their own values and faith, with support from a community of faith. This year's Confirmation program will again be facilitated by Associate Minister, Rev. Brendan Curran, with support from parents and church members. Brendan is very excited to be with the 9th graders on their journey!

There will be an **Orientation to Confirmation Classes** for parents and the 2019 - 2020 confirmands on Sunday morning September 29th from 9:00 – 9:45 am in the church library. During the meeting Brendan will give a quick overview of the curriculum, provide coffee and donuts, and answer any questions people might have. In order to have an idea of how many to expect, Brendan asks that you **RSVP if you plan to attend the meeting** at 401-246-0111 x. 104 or brendan@bccucc.org.

*The deadline to register for Confirmation is Tuesday, October 1st.
Contact Brendan to register.*

Confirmation class will meet once a month on Sundays from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in Room 9 during the school year on the following dates:

Oct. 6th, Nov. 10th, Dec. 1st, 2019,
and Feb. 9th, Mar. 22nd, Apr 19th, and May 10th, 2020.

Please also make note of the following events and dates for our confirmands:

Confirmation Events:

- Sat, Nov 9th, 2019 8:30 – 12:30 pm Service morning at Matthewson Street Church
- Sun, Jan 26th, 2020 Racial Justice Training 1 – 5 pm
- Feb 26th Ash Wednesday service 7 pm

- March 6th – 7th Confirmation Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod.
- April 9th Maundy Thursday service 7 pm
- May 31st, Confirmation Sunday

We are looking forward to a busy year!

If your child is a 9th grader and you did not receive an introductory letter from Rev. Brendan Curran earlier this summer, please contact him at brendan@bccucc.org or 246-0111 ext. 104 so he can send you one.

YOUTH GROUP

Grades 6-12



The Youth Group will gather bi-monthly throughout the year. One monthly meeting will focus on fellowship that includes group discussions, games, art projects, movies and pizza or some combination of those things! The other meeting will focus on service. We will reach out to groups in the community, and will help with soup kitchens & shelters.

Youth Group activities and meetings are open to all youth from Grades 6 – 12.

Help **KICK OFF** the year with a hike on Mt. Monadnock on Saturday, September 21st (meet at 8 am at church). Families are welcome!

Dates to save are

- Sat, Sept 21st, 2019 Mount Monadnok Hike (meet 8 am)
- Tues, Oct 22nd YG Service meeting 4 – 6 pm
- Sun, Oct 27th YG meeting 12 – 2 pm
- Sat, Nov 9th Service Day at Matthewson St Church
8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Sun, Nov 24th YG meeting 6 – 8 pm

- Sun, Dec 15th YG go Caroling @ Noon
- Sun, Jan 12th, 2020 YG meeting 6 – 8 pm
- Wed, Jan 22nd YG Service meeting 4 – 6 pm
- Date tbd Youth Climate Justice Day
- Wed, Feb 12th YG make Valentine's cookies 4 – 6 pm
- Sun, Mar 15th YG meeting 11:30 – 1:30
- Wed Mar 25th YG Service meeting 4 – 6 pm
- Sun, Apr 5th YG meeting 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
- Wed, Apr 22nd YG Service meeting 4 – 6 pm
- Sun, May 17th YG meet at Noon

Meetings take place in Room 9 unless otherwise noted.

Please contact Rev. Brendan Curran with any questions you may have. brendan@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 104.

VOLUNTEERING AT BCCUCC CEYM PROGRAMS

It really does 'take a village' to nurture Christian faith in children and young people. We hope and expect that parents, caregivers, and other interested adults in the church community will offer their time and talents throughout the program year. We help provide you with the information and resources that you'll need to enjoy the experience and grow in faith.

Every volunteer that works with children & youth is asked to fill out a Volunteer Application Form. You can download the form from our website www.bccucc.org or pick one up from outside Andrea's office.

For more information please contact Andrea Bullard at andrea@bccucc.org or 246-0111 ext 107.



2020 MISSION TRIP



We are excited to announce that next year's mission trip is an intergenerational trip (ages 16 and up) to Puerto Rico. Although it has been two years since hurricane Maria devastated this American island there is still tremendous destruction and wreckage.

Rev. Dale will be leading this trip leaving the week after Barrington schools get out (**June 21-27, 2020**).

Currently the majority of work being done is repairing roofs. These are flat roofs and single story only, so all skill levels are able to participate. Additionally, the weather is generally gorgeous in Puerto Rico in June (low 70s) but we will still get up early and work through the early afternoon before breaking for the day. Hopefully, there will be lots of time to get to know one another better and learn about this Caribbean jewel. This is a wonderful way to serve God and our neighbors!

If you are interested in this trip please contact Dale at dale@bccucc.org.

We will be holding an organizational meeting on **Sunday, September 29th** following worship (11:30 am in the Library). Space on the trip is limited to 15 participants determined on a first come first serve basis (with a handful of spots reserved initially for youth).

For more information on the UCC's work in Puerto Rico go to www.ucc.org/ucc_hurricane_maria_irma_recovery_puerto_rico.

SAFETY AT BCCUCC

Fire Drill Procedure

- Feel the door for heat. If cool, open slightly and observe corridor conditions.
- Take a head count and have children line up.
- Take the attendance book with you and proceed to the nearest exit as outlined in the fire escape plan in the classroom.*
- If there is smoke, stay as close to the floor as possible.
- Make sure that everyone stays together.
- Exit the building and proceed to the parking lot.
- Do a follow-up head count.
- Hold all children until the parents have come to pick them up.

Safe Space Policies

- Two Adult Rule: No teacher or assistant should place him/herself in a compromising situation by being alone with a child or children. At least one teacher and one assistant must be present in the classroom every Sunday.
- No teacher or assistant shall be alone with a child in a bathroom with the door closed. If a teacher or assistant accompanies a child to the bathroom, they should remain outside the bathroom while the child is inside. The bathroom door must remain open at all times.
- If a child needs to leave the classroom for any reason, they must pair up with another child of the same gender. No child is permitted to walk in the halls alone.

* You can find the Fire Drill Procedures and Safe Church Policies on the wall in each classroom.

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Stay tuned throughout the year for more information about children and youth programs at BCCUCC via email, the eBridge newsletter, and the worship bulletin announcements.