



BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ

461 County Road, Barrington RI 02806

Phone (401) 246-0111

Email office@bccucc.org

Website www.bccucc.org

The Rev. Dr. Dale H. Azevedo
Senior Minister

The Rev. Brendan J. Curran
Associate Minister

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If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. -Galatians 5:25

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. - John 3:8

Dear Barrington Congregational Church Family,

The Holy Spirit is described as the breath of life and the wind that carries our soul. When we allow this wind to carry us, St. Paul tells us that we are brought to new opportunities for growing in joy and peace, patience and kindness, wisdom and love. Day by day we learn to follow its current and sail on the wind of the Holy Spirit.

Many of you know that Mary Poppins is someone I refer to as a role model for good ministry. Mary Poppins always said, "I will stay until the wind changes." When Poppins sees the house in her care become happy, healthy, and full of joy and love, she opens her magic umbrella and allows the wind to carry her away to her next adventure. My beloved Barrington Congregational Church, I share this story because the winds are changing for me, and they are carrying me to serve as the Pastor of the Forest Grove United Church of Christ in Forest Grove, Oregon. I was called to be their pastor on Nov. 24th, 2019, and I have accepted the call.

You have shown me such warmth, welcome, support, and love throughout my time here. Five and half years ago, you had enough confidence in me to see me ordained to my first call in ministry. I am eternally grateful. Our years together have been an incredible opportunity in learning to follow the Spirit together and I have truly learned so much from every one of you. Thank you all so much.

The Spirit found us singing together, shedding tears together, laughing on mountain tops, bonding over countless cups of tea and conversations, sometimes even while dressed up as a sheep or a cow. We have seen the church school and youth ministry flourish. We have left gardens and houses in our wake as we tried our best to be the hands and feet of Christ. The Spirit has seen us at peace during our busy lives in circles of meditation and prayer where we created space for care, learning, and nurture; where we held hands and lit candles in troubled times to brighten our world. We have been bold together. We have been witnesses for justice in our community and in halls of power together with the Spirit! We have allowed the wind of that Spirit to carry us to far off places in humble efforts to participate in the mending of our world. I will miss you Barrington Congregational Church. We've learned each other's stories and now we are a part of each other's story of learning to be carried by the wind of the Spirit. That journey continues for us all and it will never end. In that Holy Spirit we are never separate but always connected in the Love of God, in which we are always being carried to new heights of grace every day.

With deep gratitude and love,

Brendan