

A Guide to Christian Education & Youth Ministry at BCCUCC 2018-2019



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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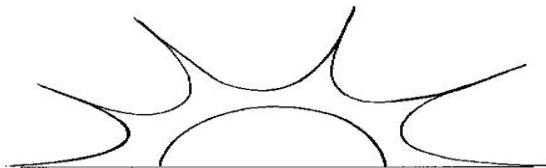
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Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team Members

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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 2018

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 5th – 6th Grades: This group will be exploring the Bible and how individual stories fit together into larger biblical themes using the Connect curriculum.
- 7th – 8th Grades: Our Seekers and Peace Makers program focuses on faith formation and spirited discussion.
- Youth in Grades 6 - 12 are encouraged to participate in the Youth Group (YG) for service projects, social and faith development.
- 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.
- 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.
- The CEYM Team has implemented Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Grades 7 - 12. This year the program will be offered to 7th & 8th graders and next year it will be offered to the 10th – 12th graders. *See page 11 for more information.*

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](http://www.bccucc.org) from the website www.bccucc.org or pick one up from the registration table in the foyer to Fellowship Hall on Sept 9th or 16th.



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

Homecoming Sunday – Sunday, September 9th



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.

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE FOR ALL AGES
and Dedication of the Volunteers who work with our children and youth.

Nursery Care is provided.



After Worship, everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the new program year with complimentary frozen treats from an Ice Cream Truck, courtesy of CEYM. There will also be our regular coffee hour.

Regular Church School classes will begin on Sunday, September 16th.

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 Time” **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!

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. There are three special Children’s Communions this year. On November 4th, 2018, February 3rd and April 7th 2019 children will gather in the Library of the Education Building at 10 a.m. for a special children’s communion service.



Baptism

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

Worship for All Ages in Sanctuary

There are some Sundays when Church School will not be offered. On these special Sundays, if other programming is not scheduled in the Education Building, you are invited and encouraged to bring your children to worship with you. We also have child-friendly *Worship Bags* for use during these special services. Please share with others and return to the ushers at the conclusion of worship.



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 five years. Children's offering envelopes will be available at the registration table on Homecoming Sunday, in each classroom, and in the pew racks.



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 *Volunteering at BCCUCC* on page 15 of this handbook.

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 marina@bccucc.org

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.

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.



Rotation Stations

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.

On non-OWL Sundays the 7th & 8th grade group will rotate between service activities, You Tube posts from Nadia Bolts Weber and the [nooma DVD series](#) by Rob Bell. “nooma is a series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus.”



Both nooma and the posts by Nadia Bolts Weber are meant to invite questions, inspire seeking and spark group conversations. The service component of the classes will be guided by the facilitators in dialogue with the students. This process will provide an opportunity for all to explore together different ways how the faith lessons being discussed are put into action and lived out in daily life in the wider world.

OUR WHOLE LIVES – SEXUALITY & OUR FAITH

Offered in 2018 - 2019 for Grades 7 & 8



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 church members Kristen Westmoreland M.D., M.P.H., Associate Minister, Brendan Curran, CE Coordinator, Andrea Bullard, and Cathleen Joachim. We may also have guest facilitators Ray Zarlengo MD and Phyllis Buckley.

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 16th
from 11:15 a.m. – noon in the library.

OWL Sessions will be in the church library from 9 am – 12:15 pm, unless otherwise noted, on the following dates:

September 30th, 2018
October 14th
October 28th (9 – 11:15 am)
November 4th
November 18th
December 2nd
January 13th, 2019
March 31st
April 28th
May 5th

Learn more about the OWL program on our church website at <https://www.bccucc.org/education/youth/owl-our-whole-lives/>

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 2018 - 2019 confirmands on Sunday morning September 23rd 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 Sunday, Sept. 30th.
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. 21st, Nov. 18th, Dec. 2nd, 2018,
and Jan. 13th, Feb. 3rd, Mar. 10th, Apr 28th, and May 5th, 2019.

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

Confirmation Events:

- November 17th Service morning 9 am – 1 pm
- January 27th Racial Justice training 1 – 5 pm
- March 6th Ash Wednesday service 7 pm

- March 15th – 16th Confirmation Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod.
- April 18th Maundy Thursday service 7 pm
- May 19th (after church) Spring community clean-up
- June 2nd 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. This year we hope to get together with the Barrington Farm School here in town! Another exciting project involves organizing a community Open Mic Night here at our church!

Youth Group activities and meetings are open to all youth from grades 6th – 12th. At our meetings we will sometimes do things as one big group. At other times, we will break into small groups according to age.

Help **KICK OFF** the year with a **walk along the “cliff walk” in Newport** and a picnic on Sunday, September 23rd after church. Families are welcome!

Stay tuned for the 2018 – 2019 calendar of events or contact Brendan for more information. brendan@bccucc.org

2019 SERVICE/MISSION TRIP



MISSION TRIP

The Youth Mission Trip this year will be the “Providence Experience”, happening during Holy Week from April 14th – April 18th, 2019. (Holy Week coincides with the Barrington Public Schools Spring break this year.)

Participants will engage in service in the city of Providence during the daytime. In the evenings, everyone will stay at Iron’s Homestead, the RICUCC campground in Gloucester, RI. Contact Brendan for more information. Brendan@bccucc.org



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 required to fill out a [Volunteer Application Form](#).

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



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

If you are not on our email list, please contact the church office at office@bccucc.org and we'll be happy to add you.

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.