



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

DECEMBER 2019



Celebrate

CHRISTMAS

at PACC

Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, November 30, from 9:00 am, in the Sanctuary
If you would like to volunteer for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas please contact Dave Morrissette or Don Cohn.

Christmas Concert & Carol Sing, Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 pm
This favorite PACC tradition features the festival choir, the youth choir, and our own Jeffrey Brody. Free will donation; festive refreshments to follow!

Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 15, during 10 am worship
*Our children and youth tell the Christmas story.
Last-minute lambs, angels, stars, and shepherds welcome!*

Service of Lament & Hope, Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 pm
This worship service is for anyone feeling the weight of the holiday season. Come with your grief, your loneliness, your stress, your anxiety about the state of the world - and find rest.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 pm
Our traditional family service includes birthday cake for Jesus in the Narthex after worship.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 10:00 pm
Traditional evening candlelight worship service with communion.

Christmas Cards



Join the PACC tradition of not sending individual Christmas cards to all of your PACC friends but instead displaying a single card from you or your family on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. You can put the card on the tree yourself or mail it to the church office.

Greetings from our Pastor!

Dear PACC friends and family,

As we begin Advent, the season of preparing ourselves for the coming of the Christ child, I want to share with you a story about a Christmas cactus I almost killed.

When I first came to Park Avenue, many people who had nurtured my ministry along the way sent tokens of congratulations, including my former boss who sent a beautiful Christmas cactus. If you have been in my office, you know it has pride of place on my desk. And if you have been in my office in the last few months, you also know that despite my best efforts to care for it, it is not in good shape.

All through the fall, its leaves looked shriveled and whole segments despondently broke right off the plant. As more branches dropped, I was convinced I had killed it. I stopped watering it and left it to sit on my desk until I could figure out where to dispose of it.

You can imagine my surprise when I came into the office one morning and noticed that there were small pink buds on several dead-looking branches. As of my writing this letter, it has multiple flowers in glorious bloom (still on dead-looking branches, but I'll take it!). It turns out that Christmas cacti like to be ignored and I had probably been overwatering it.

December is the darkest month of the year, filled with short days and cold temperatures. In the dead of winter, it can feel hard to imagine that warmth or light or life will ever return. But Advent reminds us that where we see wintry lifelessness, God is preparing life. Where we see darkness, God is kindling light. Where the world feels cold, God is carving out a warm bed of straw in a humble stable, making ready for something wonderful to be born.

As we enter into this darkest of seasons, may you be blessed with the unexpected blossoming of something beautiful in your life. And if you're at the church office, make sure to say hello to my not-yet-dead Christmas cactus!

With joy and anticipation,



Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor



Groups at PACC

Sarah's Circle

This month we are reading "*The Greatest Gift: Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas*" by Ann Voskamp. Margaret Berman has graciously offered to host a little Holiday lunch meeting on **Saturday, December 7, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** at her home in Bedford.

Women's Guild

We will meet on **December 19, at 11:30 am** for our annual Christmas gathering. Anita Clarke and Diane Wells will host a catered lunch (cost to be shared by the members attending) and we will have our usual Yankee Swap. If you would like to participate, bring a wrapped gift, (valued at about \$10) and take home a treasure. Please let Anita or Diane know if you plan to attend so that the proper amount of food is ordered. We are looking forward to you joining us for fellowship during this joyous season.

PACC Men

PACC Men will meet for dinner on **Tuesday, December 3, at 6:30 pm**, at Bacci's Restaurant, 316 Main St., Stoneham. Please let Mike Rich or Dave Morrissette know by Monday evening, December 2, if you plan on attending or if you need a ride.

*** REMINDER *** to bring in your **2019 pledge cards!** Thank you to all who have already returned pledge cards. If you haven't already, please fill it out and bring it to church or mail it to the church office. Our annual pledges are PACC's largest funding source and we rely on them. Thank you!

Snow Emergencies

Please check email or the church website for updated announcements. Official snow emergencies (and parking bans) will always cancel church events. We will also post to local television stations (4, 5 and 7) and WBZ radio 1030. Even if the church is open, please do not take unnecessary risks when weather conditions are poor.

Annual Appeal for Mass Conference Dues

We invite members to make a special donation to cover the cost of this year's dues for the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC and for the Metropolitan Boston Association. This year the amount is \$23.00. Please consider making a special gift of \$20 - \$25 per member in your family. The Mass Conference is the vehicle for our denominational involvement, including CE curriculum, mission and justice matters, and educational sessions on Super Saturdays.

END OF YEAR NOTICES

2019 Contributions due by December 31- Donors must deliver donations on or by December 31 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction on income taxes for 2019.

Submit bills by December 27 – In order for our 2019 financial reports to accurately reflect the year's activity, bills should be approved and submitted for payment by Friday, December 27.

Annual reports due January 3- It would be extremely helpful to get some reports before the end of December to get a head start on compiling the report.

2020 Council of Deacons - Election Results

The election committee is very pleased to announce that the following people have accepted the call to serve on the Council of Deacons for a two-year term starting in January 2020: **Valerie Censabella, Tina Gramm, Maureen Igoe, Scott Jones, Marianne McPherson, Alicia Tapper, Barbara Wagner, and Josh Young.**

We welcome back for the second year of their term: **Hong Chin, Don Cohn, Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Cindy Manson, Dave Morrissette and Mike Rich.**

Please join us in thanking them for agreeing to serve us and our church in this manner.

December Birthdays

12/1: Jeffrey Brody

12/3: Sharon Kabelitz

12/5: Josh Young

12/6: Margeneta Dokos

12/7: Christina Kay
& Michael German

12/10: Debbie Lewis



12/15: Jeffrey Chin

& Reese Lynch

12/17: Nicole DeRose

& Eve Hogan

12/21: Kate Reynolds

12/27: Tim Durning

12/30: Betsy Hale

12/31: Claire Gibbons

Christian Education



Dear PACC,

I hope everyone is excited for the upcoming holidays! The Christmas pageant will be here before you know it, and we're already starting to prepare. (So, if you know someone in your family wants a speaking part, please feel free to let me know!) As always, you are always welcome to drop in and talk to me after church on Sunday, or to make an appointment to see me anytime by emailing me at cedirector@pacc-ucc.org . I'd love to have a conversation with you!

Warmly,
Elizabeth Foster

CE CLASSES

Our CE classes will be rehearsing for our Christmas pageant this month, as well as doing some special advent activities. If you have not been getting the new weekly Friday CE newsletter, have not filled out the online registration form or have questions about which class your child is in, please email Elizabeth at cedirector@pacc-ucc.org.

Note: This month, our **Christmas pageant** will take place on **December 15th**. There will be one **official rehearsal** on **Saturday, December 14th at 11:00am**. I hope you're looking forward to the performance!

YOUTH GROUP

Get excited for a youth group meeting with Elizabeth and our amazing new Youth Group Facilitator Sarah Baldwin (thanks so much to Sarah for volunteering!). The meeting will take place on Sunday, December 8th after coffee hour in the Fireplace Room. We will be discussing plans, doing some introductory activities, and eating a pizza lunch. All middle school or high school youth are welcome!

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir is busy with musical preparations for the Christmas season! In addition to performing in the annual Christmas Concert and Pageant, the Youth Choir will be caroling at Park Avenue Nursing Home, and also for the ACMI Tree Lighting. Please watch email and "chat" for more news about these events. Many thanks to Youth Choir singers and families for the joy you bring with your singing!

Mission and Justice Matters at PACC



Mission and Justice Spotlight



THE CHRISTMAS FUND - UCC

For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need.

On Christmas Eve PACC will receive our usual PACC offering and offerings for The Christmas Fund. Please use designated envelopes in the pew for The Christmas Fund offerings. Any loose offerings on Christmas Eve will be designated to The UCC Christmas Fund.



PACC SPONSORED HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Please consider giving gifts and/or the gift of your time to help with these local outreach programs during the holiday season.

HOLIDAY HELPERS

Organized by the Town of Arlington, gifts go to Arlington families that need a little help this holiday season to make their children's wishes come true. This year PACC received the "Wish Lists" for 4 children. *A 14-year-old boy, a 12-year-old boy, a 6-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl.* Sign up will continue until all gifts have been spoken for by a church member or a monetary donation has been given to the Holiday Helper fund. Look for Lauren Evans in the Parish Hall after church.

CITY MISSION'S CHRISTMAS SHOP

City Mission helps to identify persons in need of holiday assistance in the local metropolitan area. At PACC, we can help by donating NEW items like winter coats and winter gear, gift cards from local merchants (Target, Kohls, etc.) and toys. There is also an opportunity to help sort and pack the gifts at First Church in Winchester on 12/8 and 12/15. See Mike Rich in the Parish Hall after church for more information.

NEW ENGLAND CENTER AND HOME FOR VETERANS

PACC will participate in the gift card program for NECHV. You can donate purchased gift cards or give cash for us to purchase gift cards and pass along.

Look for Jill Lewis in the Parish Hall after church.

Deadline for this program is Sun., Dec. 22nd

PACC Concert Series – 2019

www.pacc-ucc.org/events/concertseries/

29th Annual Christmas Concert and Carol Sing



Sunday, December 8, 2018, at 3:00 pm

The PACC Concert Series presents its Christmas gift to the community – a festive and fun mix of choral, solo and instrumental music with an opportunity to enjoy singing some traditional carols with the PACC Festival and Youth choirs. This year's concert presents music from the serious and sacred to the humorous and whimsical that has appeared in films, television, and on stage in music halls and plays. A free will donation will be taken in lieu of tickets. An artists' reception will follow the concert.



SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Help make our Sanctuary look beautiful for Christmas.

Please consider donating a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one.

You may take the poinsettia home after the 10 pm Christmas Eve service or have them delivered to someone who is home-bound.

The cost is **\$11 per plant**. Please enclose your payment with this order. Checks should be made payable to Park Avenue Congregational Church with a notation for poinsettias. Please return your order and check to the church office by **Dec. 4** OR put in offering plate no later than **Sun., Dec. 1**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ # of Red _____ # of White
____ I will pick up on Christmas Eve (10pm) ____ Please deliver to home-bound

Please write out how you would like your poinsettia dedicated:

_____ wishes to have a poinsettia/s given

in memory of / in honor of: _____

Our PACC Holiday Event is on the horizon

BREAKFAST AND SHOPPING WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 14, 8:30am - 1:00pm

This event will have a little different look from past years as we continue to evolve to serve a changing community and steward our congregation's time and energy. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN STILL HELP:

- * If you are creating something we DON'T know about and will need space for display in the Gift Shop, please leave a message at the church office.
- * **VOLUNTEERS are needed on Friday, Dec. 13** for set up, during the fair on **Sat. Dec. 14** to man the tables, serve food, collect money and assist with children's activities including Breakfast with Santa, or wherever else needed, and after 1:00pm for clean-up. If you can spare an hour, or two, or three on either date, your help would be greatly appreciated.
- * **Monetary donations** are also accepted and appreciated to defray some of the costs of the fair.

Regarding DELIVERY: Please bring **NON-PERISHABLE** items to the church for pricing by noon on **Friday, Dec. 13**. There will be someone available in the Fellowship room to receive items.

PERISHABLE items (cookies, baked goods, candies, jellies etc.) should be delivered to the Parish Hall by noon on **Friday, 12/13** for pricing. **Please be sure to label the item you are contributing including the ingredients, particularly wheat, nuts, eggs, or other common allergens.** Please put your name on containers you want returned.

If you have questions and/or would like to contribute/participate, please contact:

Bonnie Hayner
Margaret Berman
Alicia Tapper



Church Family News

In celebration:

Happy birthday to **Claire Gibbons**, who will celebrate a milestone birthday, her 90th on December 31st.

Congratulations to **Leanne Marden**, after the birth of her granddaughter, **Linnea Williams**, on November 7th. Her parents are **Dana and Brian Williams**, Leanne's daughter and her husband. Linnea is home from the hospital after a stay in the intensive care unit.

Congratulations to **Jan Roberts Breslin**, who became a grandmother after her son, **Jack Breslin**, and his partner, **Courtney**, had a baby boy, **Leon Kehoe Breslin**, on October 31st. Jan and Jack are former members of PACC.

In our prayers:

The **Amon-Schmidt family**, after the death of **Carl Schmidt**, who was **Joan Amon's** uncle and godfather.

The family of **Mabel Walkinshaw**, who died recently. She and her husband, John, were longtime active members at PACC before moving to FL.

Norm Niven, who has moved to The Courvilles Rehab and Nursing Center, #106A, 22 Hunt St., Nashua, NH 03060. Norm's sister, **Joan Sorenson**, lives in the same building.

Skip Symonds, who recently moved to Blaire House Nursing home in Tewksbury. Please send mail to Skip in care of his son, Todd Symonds, at 6 Boyd Rd, Woburn, MA 01801.

Margaret Tuttle, wife of **Mark Tuttle** and mother of **Matthew Tuttle**, who finished chemo and will move on to the next phase of treatment for breast cancer.

Dick and Gwen Phelps, as they prepare to move to Sudbury in December.

Marcia Reith, sister of **Dick Phelps**, who is in critical condition because of heart issues.

Janet Doe, **Gwen Phelps's** aunt and sister of **Judie Phelps**, who is dealing with health issues.

Tim Young, **Josh Young's** uncle, who has been in treatment for cancer and is now home receiving hospice care.

Suzanne Scott, mother-in-law of **Laurie Scott**, whose Alzheimer's disease is progressing.

Norma Sherwood who continues to recover from hand surgery.

Tracey, a friend of **Ann Bruhn's**, who is dealing with health issues.

Sarah, a friend of **Sharon Hamilton**, who has lung cancer and recently had surgery for a brain tumor.

Also, please keep in your prayers: Carol Barker, Linda Barrett, Karen Davies, Doris Hill, Marilyn Janssen, Anne Jordan, Jamie Kelly, Florence Marshall, Linda Jarvis Randall, Alicia Russell, Joan Sorensen, Doris Wilson, and Claire Zia.

A belated thank you for the love and support for me and Tim after my sister's death this summer. We are so appreciative of our church family. ~ Barbara Wagner and Tim Durning



Please remember these church friends during the Holiday Season by sending them a Christmas Card

Jeanette Ayvazian	The Gables, 299 Cambridge St., Apt. 234, Winchester, MA 01890
Dorothy Brawn	51 Iroquois Rd., Arlington, MA 02476
Yvonne Crockett	Life Care of Acton, 1 Great Road, Acton, MA 01720
Karen Davies	250 Pine St. Tewksbury, MA 01876
Doris Hill	Sunrise of Burlington, Room 327, 24 Mall Rd., Burlington, MA 01803
Norm Niven	The Courvilles Rehab and Nursing Ctr., #106A, 22 Hunt St., Nashua, NH 03060
Pat Porter	Park Ave. Health Center, 146 Park Ave., Arlington 02476
Jane Puopolo	Sunrise Assisted Living, 1395 Mass. Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Skip Symonds	c/o Todd Symonds, 6 Boyd Road, Woburn, MA 01801
Doris Wilson	Assisted Living at Life Care Center, 25 Woodland Rd., #9, Stoneham, MA 02180

Church Staff and Office Hours

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor, Pastorleah@pacc-ucc.org (781)281-9523

Drop in office hours (subject to change): Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please contact Leah for additional meeting days/times - she is happy to meet with you!

Days off: Friday & Saturday Pastoral Emergencies: Call Pastor Leah directly.

Christine Rochon, Office Administrator, office@pacc-ucc.org (781)643-8680

Church Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Elizabeth Foster, Christian Education Director

Please call the office or e-mail her directly at cedirector@pacc-ucc.org to arrange a time to meet with her.

Jeffrey Brody, Music Director and Organist

Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director

** Please call the office to arrange an appointment with either of our music directors.*

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Food Pantry Collection 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 11:15 AM Youth Choir rehearsal, NR 11:30 AM Fair Meeting, FR	2 7:00 PM Chorale-PH 7:30 PM Finance-FR 8:00 PM Chorale-N	3 6:30 PM PACC Men, Stoneham 6:30 PM Rising Star Quilters, PH 6:30 PM Vox Lucens, S,N	4 6:45 PM English Country Dance, PH 7:30 PM Bible Study, FR	5 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM FAC PH	6 2:00 PM Jay Lane-N 8:00 PM FAC-PH	7 9:00 AM Movement class, PH 9:00 AM Toast Masters, N 10:00 AM Christmas Concert Rehearsal, S 10:30 AM Quilters Workshop, PH
8 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 11:15 AM Youth Choir rehearsal, NR 11:30 AM Fair Meeting, FR 3:00 PM Concert Series: Annual Christmas Concert 4:00 PM Navigators, FPR & N	9 7:00 PM Chorale-PH 7:30 PM Council of Deacons, FR 8:00 PM Chorale-N	10 6:30 PM Vox Lucens, S,N	11 6:45 PM English Country Dance, PH	12 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM FAC PH	13 Set-Up for Breakfast and Shopping with Santa 2:00 PM Jay Lane-N	14 8:30 AM Breakfast with Santa and Fair, PH 11:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, S 3:00 PM Girl Scouts 69203-N&FPR
15 9:20 AM Youth Choir rehearsal, NR 10:00 AM Christmas Pageant, S 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:00 AM mid-month Communion, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 4:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 62571, FPR	16 7:00 PM Chorale-PH 8:00 PM Chorale-N	17 6:30 PM Vox Lucens, S,N	18 6:30 PM ECD Board Meeting, N 6:45 PM English Country Dance, PH 7:00 PM Service of Lament and Hope, S 7:30 PM Bible Study, FR	19 11:30 AM Women's Guild, FR 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM FAC PH	20 2:00 PM Jay Lane-N 8:00 PM FAC-PH	21 9:00 AM Movement class, PH
22 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 4:00 PM Navigators, FPR & N	23 7:00 PM Chorale-PH 8:00 PM Chorale-N	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve early service, S 10:00 PM Christmas Eve, Candlelight Service, S	25 Church Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 8:00 PM FAC PH	27 2:00 PM Jay Lane-N 8:00 PM FAC-PH	28 9:00 AM Movement class, PH 9:00 AM Toast Masters, N
29 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH	30 7:00 PM Chorale-PH 8:00 PM Chorale-N	31 6:30 PM Vox Lucens, S,N	1 Church Office Closed 6:45 PM English Country Dance, PH 7:30 PM Bible Study, FR	2 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM FAC PH	3 2:00 PM Jay Lane-N 8:00 PM FAC-PH	4 9:00 AM Movement class, PH 9:00 AM Toast Masters, N 9:30 AM Sarah's Circle, FR

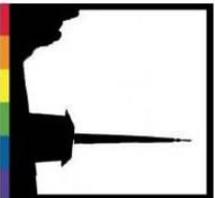
Sundays in December at PACC

Worship begins at 10:00 am

- December 1** - Worship Service with communion, Food Pantry collection
- December 8** - Worship Service, Christmas Concert
- December 15** - Worship Service with Christmas Pageant
- December 22** - Worship Service
- December 29** - Worship Service, Lesson and Carols

THE OFFICE WILL BE **CLOSED DECEMBER 24 AND 25**
FOR CHRISTMAS





The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

50 Paul Revere Road

Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

TO:

*May your Christmas be
Merry and Bright*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Tel.: 781-643-8680

Email: Office@pacc-ucc.org

Website: www.pacc-ucc.org

Staff

Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

Elizabeth Foster, Christian Education Dir.

Jeffrey Brody, Music Director and Organist

Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director

Victor and Sue McNary, Sextons

Christine Rochon, Office Administrator

Officers

Valerie Censabella, Moderator

Tim Durning, Vice Moderator

Linda Cohn, Clerk

Mark Tuttle, Treasurer