



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church
The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

Arlington, Massachusetts
JANUARY 2021

JANUARY @ PACC

WARRANT

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Park Avenue Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Arlington Heights, Massachusetts, is called for **Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 10:45am, virtually on ZOOM** to consider the following:

1. To receive the report of the treasurer and vote on the annual budget;
2. To receive the reports of the minister, officers, ministries, and other organizations;
3. To approve the Council of Deacons' selection for moderator, vice moderator, clerk, treasurer and financial secretary;
4. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

If for any reason a quorum should not be present on January 31, the meeting will be adjourned to Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 10:45 am.

This meeting will NOT be broadcasted on FACEBOOK LIVE.



GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear PACC friends,

In a recent conversation, a friend used the term *Insha'Allah*, Arabic for "God willing." Though it's often used secularly in an almost superstitious way, like saying "knock on wood," it actually comes straight from the Qur'an, where Muslims are commanded to use it to speak about future events. Many devout Muslims use it in this way as a reminder of God's sovereignty in their lives and in the world.

I've been thinking about *Insha'Allah* a lot as we look towards a New Year, where we have great hope: hope for a vaccine, hope for a slowing down of or even an end to the pandemic, hope for being able to worship and gather together in person. Yet none of it is promised - it's all *Insha'Allah*, God willing.

I'm not sure my theology aligns with the strictest interpretation of the phrase - after all, if we say "God willing" about the end of a pandemic, then it might imply that the beginning of it was God's will, too, and I certainly do not believe God willed this virus and its deadly spread.

But there is, I think, value in admitting that we cannot count on events turning out a certain way, no matter how desperately we hope for it. Our hope, after all, doesn't end with a particular outcome - our hope is in the God who is with us through every outcome. No matter what the next year brings, no matter how fulfilled or disappointed our hopes will turn out to be, no matter how little we can count on happening the way we want - we can surely count on God's sustaining presence.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, hope-filled 2021 - *Insha'Allah*.

Blessings,

Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

P.S. I will be away from work for continuing education as I virtually attend another training session for Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) from January 6th through the 10th. We will be glad to welcome back the Rev. John Zehring as our guest preacher on that Sunday. Thanks to all those making worship happen in my absence! While I'm away, please only text or call with urgent pastoral issues.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL SERVICES AT PACC

In accordance with UCC Conference guidelines, we'll continue to worship and meet virtually. PACC will continue to be in communication about what our plans are for re-opening.

Virtual Church - Sundays at 9:30 am on ZOOM / Facebook

Pastor Leah sends out an e-mail a day or two before Worship with a link to ZOOM and our Facebook page. Contact the office to sign up for those e-mails.

To participate in worship via Zoom from your computer or smart phone:

Click here just before 9:30am (*it's okay to join late*): <https://zoom.us/j/742148863>

You can choose whether to use the video function or just audio.

From your smart phone you may be asked to download an app.

To participate via Zoom from your phone (audio only):

Call this number: (929) 205 6099 . If asked for a meeting ID, enter: 742 148 863

To participate via Facebook:

[Go to our Facebook page](#) just before 9:30am Sunday to watch live, or [visit the video part of our page](#) after we finish worship to watch a recording. If you have a Facebook account, make sure to click "Following" on the Park Avenue page to get an automatic alert when we go live.

Did you miss live worship? Pastor Leah sends out a link to a video recording via email on Sunday afternoons.

Passing of the (Virtual) Peace - Tuesdays at 5:30 pm on ZOOM

You can drop by anytime during the hour for any length of time. Raise a toast and share few moments with friends. See the CHAT e-mail on Tuesdays for the ZOOM link.

Digital Prayer - Wednesdays at 10:30 am on ZOOM and Facebook Live.

Contact Pastor Leah at pastorleah@pacc-ucc.org if you'd like to be added to the e-mail list with log-in information. All are welcome!

Bible Study - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm via ZOOM

Contact Pastor Leah at pastorleah@pacc-ucc.org if you'd like to be added to the e-mail list with log-in information. All are welcome!

Virtual Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is a vital part of our warm and welcoming community. Many of us are missing that opportunity to connect with one another. So, join us instead for virtual coffee hour. **Stay logged into virtual worship (on ZOOM) on Sundays to join coffee hour.**

Christian Education

Community Connections, a group for our Youth!

Community Connections is a group that pairs up members of the Youth Group with younger children in the congregation. It is a tutor and mentor program where older buddies provide homework help, and support and guidance through Covid-19 to younger buddies. Feel free to contact _____ if you would like to learn more or would like to sign your child up for the program!

YOUTH CHOIR

The PACC Youth Choir has been gathering on ZOOM, playing musical games, working on a fun new project, and even doing some singing and music learning together!! Even though this year is VERY different, newcomers are always welcome, so please contact Andy Hart _____ if you have a young singer who might be interested.



2021 PLEDGE CARDS

A * **REMINDER** * to mail in your **2021 pledge cards**! Thank you to all who have already returned pledge cards. Our annual pledges are PACC's largest funding source and we rely on them. Thank you!

Annual Appeal for the Southern New England Conference

Each year we invite members to make a special donation to cover the cost of our support for the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC (now the Southern New England Conference) and for the Metropolitan Boston Association. Please consider making a special gift of \$20 - \$25 per member in your family. The Southern New England Conference is the vehicle for our denominational involvement, including CE curriculum, mission and justice matters, and educational sessions on Super Saturdays.

PACC's DIGITAL GIVING PROGRAM

PACC has implemented a company called Vanco for our online giving service. Vanco is a large company that has been engaged by a number of churches to implement their online giving. We are making this change to enable parishioners to give not only using credit cards but also directly from their checking accounts.

If you have any questions, please email Don Cohn.

Church Family News

In celebration:

Belated birthday wishes to **Sue Scott** who celebrated her 90th birthday on November 30. Sue is **Steve** and **Laurie Scott's** mother/mother-in-law. **Happy Birthday Sue!!**

Congratulations to **Ted Dokos** who was married to **Anna Shalaginova** on December 14. Congratulations also to **Nick** and **Liz Dokos**, Ted's parents.

In our prayers:

Mary Rogers and **Caleb Rogers** and their family, after the death of their mother, **Sally Rogers**, on November 30. Sally was a longtime member and historian of Pleasant Street Congregational Church (PSCC) before joining PACC after PSCC closed. She co-founded the Rogers-Pierce Children's Center in 1968 to promote racial justice.

Meredythe Schober and the family of her cousin, **Bill Phelan**, who died recently in Oregon.

The family of **Kenny**, a cousin of **Leah Lyman Waldron's** mother. Kenny unexpectedly died recently. Prayers also for **Leah, her mother** and Kenny's mother, **Marilyn**, Leah's great aunt.

Linda Carew's husband, **Paul Carew**, who is home and doing well after heart bypass surgery.

Rick Sherburne, who is home recovering from recent hip replacement surgery.

Bernard Powell, who is now home after being in the hospital overnight with COVID-19.

Bob Forté, who is starting cancer treatment in January.

Karen Stark's niece, **Loretta Stark**, who had surgery because of a pulmonary embolism and will hopefully go to rehab soon.

Jane Puopolo, who was hospitalized and is now in rehab at Woburn Rehab and Nursing Center recovering from fractures in her back.

Bob Davis's grandson, **Matthew**, who is facing more treatment because of a brain tumor

Betty Gitlin Rich's brother, **Pete Gitlin**, who is receiving intensive chemo to treat a second tumor.

Betty Gitlin Rich, who is recovering from a procedure following her Mohs surgery.

Chickie Olson, who recently underwent some testing and is waiting for test results.

Pam Lepri's father, **Ron Lepri**, who is home from the hospital where he was treated for complications from diabetes. But there are concerns he may be hospitalized again.

Judy Fox, who continues to be treated for an on-going infection.

Norma Gormley's son-in-law, **Chuck Garlisi**, who is in treatment for a colon cancer.

Merrith Sabo-Jones's husband **Jeff's** young relative, **Sarah**, who had brain surgery because of a cancer diagnosis. Also, prayers for **Kenny**, a cousin of **Jeff's**, who recently had a second retinal tear.

Julia Lee's birth mother, **Paula Nulik**, who is in treatment for cancer.

A close friend of the **Bruhn family**, **Tracey**, a who died on December 30th. Prayers also for **Ann Bruhn and family**, and Tracey's family.

*Prayers for **ALL** those throughout our church community, state and country who are caring for us and putting themselves at risk as well as the many people still working to keep things going during this crisis.

*Prayers for those who are dealing with addiction, depression, and other mental health challenges.

Also, please keep in your prayers: Linda Brinkman, Dorothy Brawn, Colbert Clarke, Yvonne Crockett, Janet Doe, the Forté family, Doris Hill, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Anne Jordan, Jamie Kelly, Florence Marshall, Tricia McConville, Pat Porter, Alicia Russell, Jim Saros, Norma Sherwood, Joan Sorensen, Morrie Tuttle, and Doris Wilson.

** If you or someone you know at PACC is celebrating a milestone birthday (turning 80 or 90), please let Barbara Wagner know.*

Prayers for PACC Essential Workers

The following names were shared with us - please reach out to add yourself or a loved one to our list!

Chris Censabella, grocery store

Abby McNulty, hotel hospitality

Julia Lee, food delivery

Bob Forté, home improvement store

Janet Forté, teacher

Karen Ewen, healthcare

Scott Jones, police detective

Maureen Gormley, healthcare

Rachael, Ryan, Jill and Toni, friends of Jonathan Daniels in healthcare

Emily Evans, first responder

Elaina Evans, healthcare

Joscelyn Moore, healthcare

Todd Moore, food service in hospital

Tina Gramm, healthcare

Daniel Wesinger, firefighter

Paul Domenichella, firefighter

Ken Woodin, grocery store

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Marianne McPherson



Marianne McPherson is currently serving as our Christian Education Deacon. She has been instrumental in helping this past year to keep our youth engaged virtually and in socially distant ways in the life of the church. You may have seen her and her lovely family singing and reading scripture in the 4pm Christmas Eve service this year. If there's one thing we need more of in 2021, it's the artistic talents of the McPherson Sidel family. Thank you Marianne for all the ways you enrich our PACC family. If you have any questions about your children being more involved in Christian

Education at PACC feel free to reach out to her.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 31

Annual reports: The deadline to submit annual reports is **Monday, January 4.**

There will be copies of the combined reports of staff, officers and ministries along with financial information e-mailed to the congregation beginning January 17. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office, (781)643-8680.

Important Budget Meeting – PACC needs your input!

In order to prepare a balanced budget for 2021 some choices need to be made. The budget meeting on **January 17** (after the Worship Service at **approximately 10:45 am**) is the opportunity to voice your views and help guide the Finance and Property Ministry in making these decisions. It is a very important meeting for all who care about PACC.

To participate you can stay on the ZOOM call after worship that day to attend this meeting or use this link to sign in again: <https://zoom.us/j/742148863> (an e-mail invite will also be sent out earlier in the week)

MISSION and JUSTIC MATTERS AT PACC

ARLINGTON EATS

Please consider a monetary donation to Arlington EATS as they experience higher than usual need and lower than usual contributions during the pandemic.

You may donate directly here: <https://www.arlingtoneats.org/help/donate-money/>

OR send a check to PACC with “Food Pantry” written on the memo line.

DR. REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OBSERVANCES

The Town of Arlington will hold its annual celebration to honor the legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on **January 18** via ZOOM. Please click [HERE](#) to find more information on the Town of Arlington website.

Boston Mountain Top Coalition MLK Online Community Tribute January 14, 2021, 7pm via ZOOM. **RSVP Today:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-mlk-online-community-tribute-tickets-132735335963>

Brandeis MLK Interfaith Day of Service 2021 - Building Beloved Community to Overcome the Pandemics: Racism, Disparity and Violence January 18, 2021, 10 - 11:30am via ZOOM [RSVP Today: brandeismlk2021.eventbrite.com](https://brandeismlk2021.eventbrite.com)



Boston Children's Chorus unites its voices to honor the resilience of a people that have formed the backbone of this country's cultural heritage. Drawing upon a rich artistic legacy, we share music that underscores the history of the African American experience and reflects on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reserve free tickets by using this link: <https://give.bostonchildrenschorus.org/event/born-on-the-water/e318816/register/new/select-tickets>



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 - Jane Flores | 21 - Yvonne Crockett |
| 2 - Noel Forté, Kathy Richardson | 22 - Victor McNary |
| 5 - Valerie Censabella | 23 - Maureen Gormley,
Carolyn Woodin, Polly Ford |
| 7 - Jim Gibbons | 25 - Bonnie Hayner |
| 8 - Diane Wells | 27 - Margaret Sherwood |
| 9 - Joscelyn Moore | 28 - Peter Domenichella |
| 12 - Linda Anderson, Mike Rich | 29 - Cameron French |
| 13 - Becky Jones, Milo O'Rourke | |
| 16 - Kate Lindheim | |

Messages from our PACC members and friends

To all at PACC, sincere thanks for my Christmas arrangement, all the cards, calls and loving thoughts from all my friends. Best wishes for a Happy New Year. ~ *Doris Wilson*

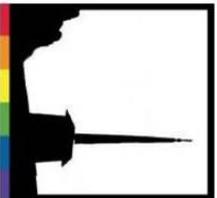
Thank you to Pastor Leah, the staff, the Council of Deacons and all the “behind the scene” members who have worked tirelessly to keep us connected through this difficult year. You have upheld us spiritually, socially, in hope, prayer and in some cases, advancement into the tech world! Bless you all. ~ *from a grateful congregation*

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year! ~ *Jeanette Ayvazian*

Dear friends at PACC, my thoughts are with you and I am wishing you a wonderful Christmas season full of peace and joy. AND, a healthy new year! Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. I will enjoy it through the winter months. ~ *Connie Lindquist*

Thank you to everyone at PACC for all the “porch visits”, calls and cards. Special thanks to Linda and Don Cohn for delivering the weekly bulletin to me. These kindnesses have helped me so much through the holidays. Thank you also to Barbara Wagner for delivering a fully bloomed Amaryllis. Health and happiness to all in the New Year.

~ *Peg Kyle*



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

50 Paul Revere Road

Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

TO:

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Tel.: 781-643-8680

Email: Office@pacc-ucc.org

Website: www.pacc-ucc.org

Staff

Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

Christine Rochon, Office Admin.

Jeffrey Brody, Music Director/Organist

Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director

Victor and Sue McNary, Sextons

Officers

Valerie Censabella, Moderator

Tim Durning, Vice Moderator

Linda Cohn, Clerk

Mark Tuttle, Treasurer