

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Heike Werder, Interim Minister

February 2019



at PACC

Winter Fellowship Feast

Saturday, February 2, beginning at 5:00pm – see more details on page 3!

GAME NIGHT



Join us February 23 and March 30, from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Please bring a food item suitable for 6-8 people and games you would like to share/play with others. If it snows, we will not hold game night on that evening. This is a family-friendly event. Contact Betty Rich bgr642@gmail.com or Cindy Manson cynthia.manson@gmail.com for questions.



Snow Emergencies

Please check email or the church website for updated announcements. Official Arlington 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 conditions are poor.

Greetings from our Interim Pastor!

Dear Friends of Park Avenue Congregational Church,

I have been reading a great book for the past few days. It is called *“Learning to Walk in the Dark”* written by Barbara Brown Taylor. I read her last book, *An Altar to the World*, which I truly loved and is a good read for an adult education class (hint, hint!).

This book, as the title says, deals with our relationship to *Dark/Darkness* in the literal and spiritual sense. Literally, we do everything to avoid the dark except for sleeping (maybe). We are afraid of the dark and avoid it at any cost. There are lights everywhere, inside and out, when the sun goes down. Environmentalists talk about light pollution. When was the last time, you saw the Milky Way? My last time was in Vermont, in the middle of nowhere. Because of the many lights around us, we don’t see the stars anymore. She also writes about emotional /spiritual darkness – times when we feel sad, depressed, worried. Again, we try anything not to feel those dark feelings to protect ourselves or the people around us.

There are many more examples in the book about how we deal with darkness for good and ill. As a theologian, she of course talks about darkness in the Bible. There are only about 100 references to darkness in the good book, and the verdict is unanimous: darkness is bad news. From the very beginning, light stands for life and darkness for death. When God is angry, people are plunged into darkness. In the New Testament, light stands for knowledge and darkness for ignorance.

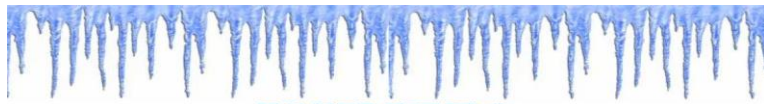
But that is not the whole story of darkness in the Bible. God says to Abraham, while looking at the stars, that his descendants will be as numerous as what he sees in the sky at night. Jacob finds his faith as he wrestles with God in the night. In fact, many important things happen at night in the Bible: dreaming dreams, escaping from oppression, surviving the wilderness, receiving the 10 commandments, waiting for Jesus to rise. Darkness in the Bible gets a lot of good credit. It seems that in the quietness of darkness that God meets us and speaks to us.

I am not done with the book yet but I get what Taylor wants us to know: good things can come out of darkness. She writes, “...I have learnt things in the dark that I could have never learnt in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light.”

Why am I writing about this? Whatever darkness we find ourselves in – be it personal, physical, spiritual, political, may we trust that darkness will not be the status quo but that the One who raised Christ from the darkness of death, will raise us into the light again and again and again. Darkness is part of the journey we call life, but so is light.

Blessings and Peace,

Heike



WINTER FELLOWSHIP FEAST!

Join us for fun, food and fellowship as we chase the cold away!

Saturday, February 2 at 5:00 pm in the PACC Parish Hall

The Menu: Mulled cider, Peasant (vegetable) soup, Bread/butter, Salad of greens, Baked Ham, Stuffed boneless chicken breast, Mashed potatoes, Green beans, Brussel sprouts, Butternut squash, Assortment of baked goods and fresh fruit, Coffee/tea. Baked macaroni and cheese will be available for children.

Making the evening extra special will be a wonderful performance by The Saxyderms, the Tufts University saxophone ensemble that features our own Ethan Brush. There will be a silent auction with unusual items like an airplane ride, fly-fishing lessons, a weekend beach retreat, and tickets to plays, museums and the opportunity to buy some extra special baked goods. For younger children, we will have a special program in the Fellowship Room.

Adults/Children 13 yrs. and above: \$20 pp, Children between 3yrs and 12 yrs.: \$5 pp

Children 2 years and under are free!

Family Maximum of \$50

Financial assistance is available: Please see Rev. Heike Werder

You can purchase tickets in advance during coffee hour. You can also call or e-mail the office to reserve your ticket. *When purchasing tickets, please specify if you'd like Ham, Chicken or if a Vegetarian option is needed.*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 - Weston Rochon

9 - Gabe Putnam

10 - Dave Morrissette,
Roger Nicoll

11 - Steve Colello

13 - Rachel Sexton

14 - Mark Sexton



15 - Alex Brush

16 - Jackie Kim

17 - Matthew Jacobo-Zudeck

19 - Aaron Ford

24- Margaret Bell-Berman, Justin Lawless

25 - Linda Jarvis-Randall

PACC Council of Deacons 2019

OFFICERS AND MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

Moderator:	Valerie Censabella
Vice Moderator:	Tim Durning
Clerk:	Linda Cohn
Treasurer:	Mark Tuttle
Administration:	Maureen Igoe
Care:	Barbara Wagner
Christian Education:	Marianne McPherson
Fellowship:	Hong Chin
Finance:	Tim Durning
Property:	Gary Kane
Membership:	Cindy Manson and Betty Rich
Mission & Justice:	Mike Rich
Music:	Linda Cohn
Stewardship:	Stu Belden and Jim Williams
Worship:	Don Cohn and Dave Morrisette

Thank you to out-going deacons Connie Dugan, Bonnie Hayner, Tina Gramm and Jill Lewis.

2019 PACC PERSONNEL

Financial Secretary:	Don Cohn
Collector:	Ken Miller
Assistant Collectors:	Stu Belden, Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Bonnie Hayner, Tom Janssen and Judy Miller.
Assistant Treasurer:	Tim Durning
Head Usher:	Norm Niven
Assistant User:	Valerie Censabella
Historian:	Linda Cohn

Groups at PACC

Sarah's Circle

For February we have chosen to read "The Life of Lucy Stone" by Alice Stone Blackwell. Lucy Stone was an early abolitionist, suffragist and the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree. We will meet on **Saturday, February 2** in the Fellowship Room at **10:00 am** (Those who wish to meditate may come at 9:30 am). We need a volunteer for milk/cream.

Women's Guild

We will meet (weather permitting) on **February 21, 2019 at 11:30 am**. Hot coffee and tea will be provided to go with your brown bag lunch. If you have greeting cards that you would like to donate for sending to our PACC members and friends please bring them with you. We always enjoy being together and all women of the church family are welcome no matter how many times you are able to attend. If you are in need of a ride call Beverly Miller or Diane Wells.

Knitting Group

Bring your knitting or handcrafts and join us in the Fireplace room upstairs on **Tuesday, February 12, from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm**. Some of us are making items to donate to Knitting4Peace. We've got patterns and yarn.

PACC Men

We will meet at PACC on **Tuesday, February 5, at 6:30 pm**, location TBD. Don Cohn and Jim Gibbons will present on aspects of book publishing (mainly typesetting and printing), past and present. We'll order food from a local restaurant. Please bring beverages and dessert.

New in 2019 will be our development of a fund through voluntary dues payments to provide for outside speaker honoraria, special events, and financial assistance to encourage wider participation.

PACC Art Group

All are welcome! Work individually on your own artwork and share in group interactions. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. **We will meet February 5 and 12 at 6:30pm, and February 17 and 24 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room**. Please use the side door on Paul Revere Rd. Please bring your art supplies with you. If you have any questions feel free to contact: Gwen Phelps gwendy646@aol.com (617)966- 2670 or Karen Stark kastark@rcn.com (781)290 -7905.

Christian Education



Sunday school

This month, we're learning stories about Jesus' ministry from the Gospel of Luke.

Feb. 3 - Jesus stills a storm (Luke 8:22-25) preschool
Mustard seed and yeast (Luke 13:18-21) K - 3

Feb. 10 - Jesus heals a sick woman (Luke 8:40, 43-48) preschool
Come to the banquet (Luke 14:1-24) K - 8

Feb. 17 - Jesus teaches a prayer (Luke 11:1-4) multi-age class

Feb. 24 - The loving parent (Luke 15:11-32) preschool - 8

Middle School Youth Group

We'll be volunteering with Cradles to Crayons on **Wednesday, February 20**, from **1:30pm - 3:30pm**. See email for more details.

Evening Bible Study

Evening Bible Group typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Room from 7:30 pm-9:00 pm. February dates are **February 13 and 27**. Reverend Heike will facilitate. Join us for a lively discussion! All are welcome.

Mission and Justice Matters at PACC



Mission and Justice Spotlight



The federal government shutdown is especially hard on essential personnel in closed agencies, e.g. U. S. Coast Guard, Air Traffic Control, and Transportation Safety Administration. They have to work, are not being paid, and are not eligible for unemployment benefits. Government contractors are also affected. We will be using funds from our 2018 budget and seeking donations to purchase \$50 gift cards to distribute to those in the Arlington area who are impacted by the shutdown. We could use a volunteer coordinator to organize our effort to interact with other area agencies that are helping, to purchase the gift cards, and to arrange publicity and distribution.

Here is a link to an article about what the Town of Arlington and the Arlington Food Pantry/EATS are offering to federal workers during the shutdown:

https://www.yourarlington.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15296:food-011619&catid=20:town-news

End of Year Spending

We have received “Thank you” letters from Hispanic Federation’s UNIDOS Disaster Relief and Recovery Program for Puerto Rico, Housing Corporation of Arlington, the Boston Immigration Justice and Accompaniment Network – BIJAN, and the New England Center and Home for Veterans. See the Mission and Justice Ministry bulletin board in Parish Hall for the description of what these programs do.

Immigration, Asylum, and Refugee Issues

Here is a link to a Boston Globe article about BIJAN: “Beyond sanctuary: A chain of helpers offers practical ways to support immigrants” -

https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2019/01/10/beyond-sanctuary-chain-helpers-offers-practical-ways-support-immigrants/bpWmAyy9bKFDexV4iEnoEN/story.html?s_campaign=8315

Multi-Faith Prayer Vigil - Suffolk County House of Corrections, 20 Bradston Street, Boston, **Sunday, February 17**, 2:00 - 3:00 PM. These monthly prayer vigils provide an important opportunity to join with immigrants detained at the House of Corrections in prayer and in expression of immigrants’ rights. The prayer vigils are conducted by faith communities under the auspices of the Massachusetts Community Action Network (MCAN). The immigrants held at the House of Corrections are waiting for court dates related to immigration.

LGBT Asylum Task Force – We are considering hosting a fundraising party for the LGBT Asylum Task Force at PACC. Please talk to Mike Rich if you are interested in helping to organize it.

UCC / Mass. Conference news – www.macucc.org

Super Saturday – a full day of worship, workshops, and networking. All are welcome! Saturday, **March 16**, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA. **Registration Deadline: March 2, 2019.**
Registration Fee: \$54.00 (\$44.00 each if registering together as a group of 5 or more.)

Financial assistance is available from PACC. The featured speaker is **Rebekah Anderson**. Rebekah began investigating disability theology during an internship with the office of Congregational Assessment, Support, and Advancement of the UCC, and has presented on the topic at the National Church Leadership Institute, Eastern Regional Youth Event, and Super Saturday. Find her writings at bekahmaren.blogspot.com. More details including the choices and lunchtime activities, and the link to the registration form at <https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-11156586>

One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) “MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE”

OGHS is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities in the U.S. and around the world. Our campaign will start on March 3. Please talk to Mike Rich if you are willing to be our campaign coordinator this year or to present a Mission Moment on a Sunday leading up to the collection on **March 31**. For much more information including about Matching Gift programs, donating to a specific natural disaster or refugee emergency, staying updated, go to www.ucc.org/oghs.

Local

Arlington Food Pantry

Bring non-perishable food items and household goods to church by **Sunday, February 3**. Find a list of high-need items at arlingtonfoodpantry.org/donate-food. You may also donate by check or cash noting that the funds are for AFP. Thanks for your generosity and thanks to Bryan Mau for delivering our items to the AFP.

NEAT (Neighbors Eating All Together)

The next **NEAT dinner** at St. John’s Church (74 Pleasant St.) is **Saturday, February 23**, from **5:00 pm-6:00 pm**. This dinner is a community dinner, open to all and free of charge. Look for an email to chat if you’d like to help set up, serve, help in the kitchen or clean up. Thanks!

NEAT and Hong Chin made the front page of the Arlington Advocate on January 10th – “Arlington organization, NEAT, fights food insecurity through community meals”

<http://arlington.wickedlocal.com/news/20190108/arlington-organization-neat-fights-food-insecurity-through-community-meals>

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless – Legislative Action Day

Thursday, February 28 at the Massachusetts State House starting at 9:00 am. in the Great Hall. For more information about the activities of the day, the registration link, and the Coalition’s 2019 legislative priorities go to

<http://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy>

Looking Ahead

Rummage Sale

It may still be the middle of winter, but before we know it spring will be upon us and with it plans for the RUMMAGE SALE. This is the perfect time to put to good use all those hours when weather keeps us inside and start collecting items for the sale. We are looking for all manner of clothing for men, women and children (all clean and in good condition) as well as books, linens and housewares, also in good condition. The sale will be **on April 27**. We will also be setting up and sorting the two days prior, so in addition to amassing goodies for the sale, also mark your calendars for these three days now and plan to participate in this happy and useful annual event.

CONNECT Community Series - Upcoming Events

The *Soup for Syria* event supporting the Syrian American Medical Society, which had a tentative date of March 2nd, has been postponed by the non-PACC organizers until April or May. We will have more details in next month's SPIRE.

Church Office Hours

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

Pastor Leah's maternity leave: December 12- March 12

Reverend Heike Werder, Interim Pastor

Office hours: M – W 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please call the office to make an appointment.

Pastoral Emergencies: Call or email any day or time: (617)827-4610 or revheike@gmail.com

Kate Lindheim, Christian Education Director

Please call the office to arrange an appointment.

Christine Rochon, Office Administrator

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Phone: (781)643-8680

Church Family News

In our prayers:

Joan Gonser, sister of **Bonnie Hayner**, **Evie Lewis** and **Debbie Lewis**, after the sudden death of her husband, **Bob Gonser**, on 1/10. Prayers for Bonnie, Evie, Debbie and their family as well.

Liz Ramras, who is at home recovering after being hospitalized at Mt. Auburn.

Doris Wilson, who is in rehab after a brief hospitalization.

Laurie, **Debbie Douglas**' cousin and goddaughter, who was hit by a car and suffered a severe leg fracture which required surgery.

Jenny, **Judy Fox**'s daughter, who is living with friends after her release from the hospital.

Dorothy Sexton, who is in rehab recovering from a fall.

Mark Bell, **Margaret Bell-Berman**'s son, who has a torn quadriceps and patella and will be starting physical therapy.

Karen Stark, who is making progress in her recovery from a broken leg.

Also, please keep in your prayers: **Carol Barker**, **Linda Brinkman**, **Karen Davies**, **Janet Doe**, **Zoila Flores-Quesada**, **Marilyn Janssen**, **Anne Jordan**, **Evelyn Lewis**, **Florence Marshall**, **Dick Phelps**, **Jane Puopolo**, **Linda Jarvis Randall**, **Marcia Rieth**, **Alicia Russell**, **Joan and Paul Sorensen**, **Skip Symonds**, **Annabelle Williams**, **David Whitney**, **Timothy Young**, and **Claire Zia**.

Notes from our church family:

Many thanks to Jill Lewis for visiting me and bringing me a lovely poinsettia.

~ With much appreciation, Connie Lindquist

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, calls and visits during my recent illness. I am looking forward to returning home very soon. *~ Sincerely, Doris Wilson*

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:30 AM Annual Meeting, PH	28 4:30 PM Homeless Coalition Supper 6:30 PM Art Group, FR 7:00 PM <i>Chorale-PH</i> 8:00 PM <i>Chorale-N</i>	29 7:00 PM Thai Chi, PH 7:00 PM Vox Lucens, N	30 6:50 PM English Country Dance, PH	31 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM <i>FAC PH</i>	1 2:00 PM <i>Jay Lane-N</i> 8:00 PM <i>FAC-PH</i>	2 9:00 AM <i>Movement class, PH</i> 5:00 PM Winter Fellowship Feast, PH
3 Food Pantry Collection 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 11:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal, NR 1:30 PM FAC/Scandi Series, PH	4 7:00 PM <i>Chorale-PH</i> 7:30 PM Finance-FR 8:00 PM <i>Chorale-N</i>	5 6:30 PM Art Group, FR 6:30 PM PACC Men, TBD 7:00 PM Thai Chi, PH	6 6:50 PM English Country Dance, PH	7 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM <i>FAC PH</i>	8 2:00 PM <i>Jay Lane-N</i> 8:00 PM <i>FAC-PH</i>	9 9:00 AM <i>Movement class, PH</i> 2:00 PM English Country Dance, PH 3:00 PM <i>Girl Scouts 69203-N&FPR</i>
10 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 11:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal, NR 4:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 62571, FPR	11 7:00 PM <i>Chorale-PH</i> 7:30 PM Council of Deacons, FR 8:00 PM <i>Chorale-N</i>	12 6:30 PM Art Group, FR 6:30 PM Knitting Group, Fireplace Room 7:00 PM Thai Chi, PH	13 6:50 PM English Country Dance, PH 7:30 PM Bible Study, FR	14 1:00 PM Staff Meeting - FPR 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM <i>FAC PH</i>	15 2:00 PM <i>Jay Lane-N</i> 8:00 PM <i>FAC-PH</i>	16 9:00 AM <i>Movement class, PH</i>
17 Youth Choir Sunday 9:20 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal, S 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:00 AM mid-month Communion, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 11:30 AM Art Group, FR	18 7:00 PM <i>Chorale-PH</i> 8:00 PM <i>Chorale-N</i>	19 7:00 PM Thai Chi, PH	20 6:50 PM English Country Dance, PH	21 11:30 AM Women's Guild, FR 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM <i>FAC PH</i>	22 2:00 PM <i>Jay Lane-N</i> 8:00 PM <i>FAC-PH</i>	23 9:00 AM <i>Movement class, PH</i> 1:00 PM English Country Dance, PH 5:30 PM Game Night, FR
24 10:00 AM Worship Service, S 11:15 AM Coffee Hour, PH 11:30 AM Art Group, FR	25 4:30 PM Homeless Coalition Supper 7:00 PM <i>Chorale-PH</i> 8:00 PM <i>Chorale-N</i>	26 7:00 PM Rising Star Quilting Group, PH 7:00 PM Thai Chi, PH	27 6:50 PM English Country Dance, PH 7:30 PM Bible Study, FR	28 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-N 8:00 PM <i>FAC PH</i>	1 2:00 PM <i>Jay Lane-N</i> 8:00 PM <i>FAC-PH</i>	2 9:00 AM <i>Movement class, PH</i> 4:00 PM Drumming Circle, FR

Sundays in February at PACC

Worship begins at 10:00 am

- February 3** - Worship Service with communion, Food Pantry collection
- February 12** - Worship Service
- February 17** - Youth Choir Sunday, Worship Service followed by mid-month communion by intinction, Art Group
- February 24** - Worship Service, Art Group



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
50 Paul Revere Road
Arlington, MA 02476

Address Correction Requested

TO:

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Tel.: 781-643-8680
Email: Office@pace-ucc.org
Website: www.pace-ucc.org

Staff

Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister
Kate Lindheim, Christian Education Director
Jeffrey Brody, Music Director and Organist
Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director
Victor and Sue McNary, Sextons
Christine Rochon, Office Administrator

Officers

Valerie Censabella, Moderator
Mike Rich, Vice Moderator
Linda Cohn, Clerk
Mark Tuttle, Treasurer