



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church
The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

Arlington, Massachusetts
FEBRUARY 2021

February at PACC

Ash
Wednesday
is Feb 17

See Page 11
for Ashes-to-Go information.



The CHOSEN PACC Lenten Study Series

WEDNESDAYS
7:30 - 9:00PM
2/17 THROUGH 3/31
See more information on page 8



Watch for the ZOOM invitation via CHURCH NEWS and CHAT



GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear PACC friends,

Have you hit a pandemic wall lately?

For many of us, one thing after another has piled on until we've reached our limit: the tsunami of COVID infections and deaths; the Capitol insurrection; more missed milestones that can't be celebrated in person and heartaches that can't be grieved together; the marathon of limitations on work, school, and socializing; the sameness of our daily scenery; the feeling that the goalposts are moving yet again as vaccine distribution is delayed and new variants of the virus spread.

Whatever the wall looks like for you, consider this wisdom a friend passed along to me: sometimes a wall is there for us to lean on and rest.

Did you ever notice what Jesus does in the Gospels when things start to get intense - when the pressure on Jesus is pushing him up against a wall? Just when a crowd of people is cornering him, relentless in their demands - he disappears to the hills to pray. Or just when a storm threatens to capsize the disciples' boat - he takes a nap. Or just before his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane - he goes off by himself to pray. Jesus shows us that when a wall is looming, the thing to do is to rest, to pray, to make the space to re-center ourselves in God's loving presence.

So, if you're hitting a pandemic wall (maybe for the second, sixth, or sixtieth time) - know that you are not hitting it alone. Jesus is with you, inviting you to take a walk, take a nap, or take a breath to ground yourself in the peace that passes all understanding. And your church family is with you - just a phone call or an email away when you need a listening and loving ear.

As we sing every Sunday, God will see us through. Thanks be to God!

With Love,

Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

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.**

PACC Council of Deacons 2021

OFFICERS AND MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

Moderator	Tim Durning
Vice Moderator	Marianne McPherson
Clerk	Linda Cohn
Treasurer	Mark Tuttle
Administration	Maureen Igoe
Care	Scott Jones and Barbara Wagner
Christian Education	Marianne McPherson
Fellowship	Valerie Censabella
Finance	Tim Durning
Property	Eric Rochon
Membership	Betty Gitlin Rich and Alicia Tapper
Mission & Justice	Jill Lewis and Kate Lindheim
Music	Linda Cohn
Stewardship	Sharon Hamilton and Josh Young
Worship	Dave Morrissette

2021 PACC PERSONNEL

Financial Secretary	Don Cohn
Acting Collector*	Christine Rochon
Collector	TBD when we return to in-person worship
Assistant Collectors*	Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Bonnie Hayner, Leanne Marden, and Judy Miller
Assistant Treasurers	Tim Durning, Alicia Tapper
Head Usher	Valerie Censabella
Assistant Head Usher	Betty Rich
Historian	Linda Cohn

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 Ella, 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.

Church Family News

In celebration:

Belated congratulations to **Carolyn Woodin** and her wife, **Jessica**, after Carolyn gave birth to their son, **Wesley Paul Mirisola**, on July 26. Carolyn is **Jeanne Woodin's** granddaughter and Wesley is Jeanne's 3rd great-grandchild.

In our prayers:

Norma Allen's friend, **Susan Neary**, who is receiving chemo after a diagnosis of advanced cancer.

Sharon Hawkins and her family, after the death of her father, **Raymond Lavash**, on January 2.

Anita Clarke, who was recently injured while riding in a car involved in an accident. She was hospitalized and is now in rehab.

Leah Lyman Waldron, after the death of her childhood friend, **Jason Wilkie**. Prayers also for Jason's family.

Paul Domenichella and his extended family, after the recent death of his cousin, **Frank**.

Tom Jansen, who is being treated for macular degeneration.

Joanne Jordan's mother, **Ann Jordan**, who suffered a stroke on January 1, was hospitalized and is now in rehab.

Ofelia Flores, who has been ill with bone cancer and is in hospice care. Ofelia and her family moved here from Nicaragua and were sponsored by PACC at the request of her sister-in-law, **Zoila Flores Quesada**, who was a PACC member for many years until her death. Ofelia and her family were active at PACC for many years.

Bob Forté, who recently started radiation treatments for cancer.

Norma Gormley's son-in-law and the brother-in-law of **Janet Gormley** and **Maureen Gormley**, **Chuck Garlisi**, who is in treatment for cancer and is hospitalized with lung issues after being ill with Covid-19.

Elena Hogan and family, after the death of her mother-in-law, **Ginger Hogan**. Ginger passed away from Covid-19 in early January. Elena Hogan is the daughter of **Nadine and Buck Lombard** and granddaughter of **Meredythe Schober**.

Karen Stark's niece, **Loretta Stark**, who is making progress in her recovery from surgery for a pulmonary embolism.

Jane Puopolo, who returned to her home at Sunrise in Arlington after a hospitalization and rehab for fractures in her back. She also had Covid-19 in December.

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

Betty Gitlin Rich's brother, **Pete Gitlin**, who is healing after a round of chemo before starting another round at the beginning of February.

Chickie Olson, who was diagnosed with cancer and recently started chemo.

Margaret Berman's son, **Mark Bell**, who is recovering from colon surgery.

Allysen Palmer and **Jeff Carver**, after the recent death of Allysen's mother, **Fay Palmer**, from Covid-19. Allysen and Jeff are former members of PACC.

Doris Wilson, who was hospitalized recently with Covid-19 and is now recovering in rehab.

Merrith Sabo-Jones's husband **Jeff's** young relative, **Sarah**, who is making excellent progress after her brain surgery in December.

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

*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, Judy Fox, Doris Hill, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Jamie Kelly, Florence Marshall, Tricia McConville, Pat Porter, Alicia Russell, Jim Saros, Norma Sherwood, Joan Sorensen, and Morrie Tuttle.

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

Prayers for PACC Essential Workers - The following names were shared with us

Please reach out to add someone (even yourself) to our list!

Chris Censabella, grocery store	Emily Evans, first responder
Abby McNulty, hotel hospitality	Elaina Evans, healthcare
Julia Lee, food delivery	Joscelyn Moore, healthcare
Bob Forté, home improvement store	Todd Moore, food service in hospital
Janet Forté, teacher	Tina Gramm, healthcare
Karen Ewen, healthcare	Daniel Wesinger, firefighter
Scott Jones, police detective	Paul Domenichella, firefighter
Maureen Gormley, healthcare	Ken Woodin, grocery store
Rachael, Ryan, Jill and Toni, friends of Jonathan Daniels in healthcare	

Do you need a bulletin for the Sunday service?

Many of those in our community who listen to the service on Sundays via their telephone don't have access to email. That means they don't have a bulletin to follow or words to the hymns during the service. If you listen to the service and would enjoy having a copy of the bulletin for the service, please let Barbara Wagner know. We are arranging to mail or deliver bulletins to those who do not have access to email.

Messages from our PACC members and friends

We been enjoying the beautiful poinsettia that Alicia delivered. It is so lovely and being remembered by our church friends is appreciated. ~ Claire and Jim Gibbons

Thank you for the lovely poinsettia Barbara Wagner delivered and for all the prayers for Paul. He is, thankfully, doing well. ~ Linda Carew

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Alicia Tapper



Alicia Tapper is currently serving as one of our Membership deacons. She grew up in Coventry, CT, went to Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY and moved to Boston in 2010. She has been working at Cambridge Saving Bank for 9 years. She lives in Waltham with her husband Ian, son Josh (5), and daughter Hailey (3). Her favorite activities are taking the kids on adventures, reading new books, and spending time with family and friends.

As a membership deacon her favorite activity right now is connecting with people during virtual Coffee hour. In the past, she has enjoyed volunteering in the Sunday School Nursery room and helping with the Holiday Fair. Thank you, Alicia for all you do to make PACC a warm and welcoming place.



LENTEN STUDY SERIES: *The Chosen*, Wednesdays from 7:30-9pm, 2/17 through 3/31

This year for our Lenten Study Series we'll watch the first season of the TV series *The Chosen*. A cinematic imagining of Jesus's calling of the first disciples, each episode of *The Chosen* focuses on a different disciple and how they respond to Jesus's presence and calling in their lives.

Billed as "not your grandma's Jesus show," the series features excellent writing and acting and gives an evocative, powerful take on what it might have been like to encounter Jesus in the flesh. We'll use the various ways people are affected by their encounters with Jesus as a starting point for rich discussion on our own spiritual lives and relationships with Jesus. If you've ever felt like the Gospels are a bit dry or hard to engage, this show will make them come alive. You won't want to miss it!

Plan to make time to watch an episode (*sometimes two*) *before* each gathering; each episode is about 50 minutes. Details about how to watch the show for free and which episodes to watch when will be sent via email the preceding week. Try not to binge or skip ahead - we want the episodes to feel fresh when we gather to discuss them.

All are welcome, whether it's your first Lenten Study Series or your fourteenth. We hope you will join us!

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.

NEAT (Neighbors Eating All Together)

PACC continues to support NEAT. They are unable to hold in-person dinners but they are currently running their NEAT Soup Program. It provides delicious, nutritious soups using rescued ingredients provided by Food Link Inc. and prepared by local caterers.

Their goal is to regularly provide soup to our neighbors until NEAT is able to resume serving in-person dinners.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING “Let Love Flow”

PACC will begin our campaign for OGHS on February 21. We will dedicate our offerings during our March 21 during worship. One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. You can send your donation to PACC via check (please write OGHS in the memo) or through our online donating options.

VIRTUAL MARCH SUPER SATURDAY - March, 13 & 20

Each spring and fall, the Southern New England Conference of the UCC holds a Super Saturday event - a full-day of skill building, networking and discussing best practices. Each event offers workshops, a keynote address, worship, and an opportunity for church leaders, both clergy and lay, to network with one another.

Check back here: <https://www.sneucc.org/supersaturday> for more details.

SARAH'S CIRCLE

Hi All! Winter is finally here and the cold weather is perfect for snuggling up with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate!

Sarah's Circle's February choice is *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler, a novel written in 1993, but set in the 2020s when society has largely collapsed due to climate change, growing wealth inequality, and corporate greed. The plot centers on a young teenager growing up in the remnants of a gated community near Los Angeles. When the community's security is compromised, her home is destroyed and her family is murdered, she travels north with other survivors only to find that society outside the community walls has reverted to chaos due to resource scarcity and poverty, and mixed-race relationships are stigmatized amid attacks against religious and ethnic minorities. How did Butler foresee our present?

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 11:00AM. Even if you don't have a chance to read the book, please join us! Everyone is sure to have something to add to the discussion and it's easier than ever with Zoom! *Parable* is available on kindle, audio cd, amazon and at your local library. Please email Joan Amon to be included on the zoom invitation.

Until then: Stay Safe and Read!

Post COVID Worship

Although it won't happen for at least a few months, a small team made up of Linda Cohn, Mike Rich, Marianne McPherson and Dave Morrissette, has begun meeting to discuss how and when it will be safe to return to in-person worship, and how worship may differ from the past. Due to several factors, including vaccine distribution, state guidelines, and UCC guidelines, we have not set a specific date. Much like the 'phases' we experience in reopening of our schools, towns, and cities, we may work to identify PACC's phases of reopening rather than work towards one single date where everything is 'open.'

We also want to incorporate what we have gained during remote worship by looking at ways to broadcast or stream our worship services.

We will be working with Pastor Leah, the council of deacons and the wider congregation to get input regarding how we envision returning to in-person worship.

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, February 17, 2021

This year our Ashes to Go will be socially distant! Come for your ashes in front of the sanctuary steps between 9:00 am and 11:00 am, or join us for a brief blessing and prayer at the beginning of our Lenten Study Series at 7:30 pm that evening.

If you plan to join us in person, please wear a mask. We are still working out the best way to safely distribute ashes, so keep an eye on your email for further details!



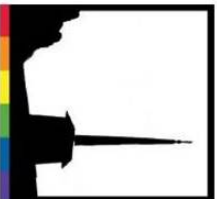
SAVE THE DATE
PACC's ZOOM
Variety Show
Fundraiser

Saturday, March 13
7:00pm - 9:00pm
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6 - Weston Rochon | 15 - Alex Brush |
| 10 - Dave Morrissette,
Roger Nicoll | 16 - Jackie Kim |
| 11 - Steve Colello | 17 - Matthew Jacobo-Zudeck |
| 13 - Rachel Sexton | 19 - Aaron Ford |
| 14 - Mark Sexton | 24- Margaret Berman,
Justin Lawless |



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

Tim Durning, Moderator

Marianne McPherson, Vice Moderator

Linda Cohn, Clerk

Mark Tuttle, Treasurer