



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church
The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

Arlington, Massachusetts
MARCH 2021

MARCH at PACC

The
CHOSEN

PACC
Lenten Study Series

WEDNESDAYS
7:30 - 9:00PM
2/17 THROUGH 3/31

PACC's ZOOM
Variety Show

an evening of fun and fundraising

Saturday, March 13

Show Starts at 7:30pm

Enjoy performances by talented
PACC members, test your
knowledge of PACC trivia and
have a chance to win coveted
PACC homemade goodies
as Door Prizes!



PACC'S

VIRTUAL

GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY
MARCH 27 AT 6PM

See more info
Via CHAT

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 9:30 AM

JOIN US ON ZOOM AND FACEBOOK



GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear PACC friends,

This month marks a year since we made the move to virtual worship. When we did our first online service, we were just a week into what would turn out to be, as I heard someone call it, "the Lentiest Lent that ever Lented."

This time around, while there is still uncertainty about vaccines, school, re-openings, and so much more, we have a better idea of what we're headed into. This Lent, we enter the wilderness wiser about how fully we will need to rely on God to get us to the other side. This Lent, we understand more deeply that our faith doesn't insulate us from suffering or pain or despair; it merely - and magnificently - reminds us that those burdens aren't the entirety or the end of our story. This Lent, we know that no matter how stark or difficult our way, there will be blessings as we go - because we have already witnessed them together.

As you walk by the church this Lent, I invite you to take a moment to take in the poem "Beloved Is Where We Begin" by Jan Richardson on the banner under the beech trees. Here's an excerpt that points us to the power of God's grace and providence for us in the midst of difficult seasons:

*"I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching of sun
or the fall of the night.*

*But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.*

*I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.*

*I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this."*

May your Lent be filled with the sweetness of strange graces found only in the wilderness,

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.

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? Check the website: www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons on Sunday afternoons or any time during the week for a video recording of the entire service plus an audio recording of just the sermon. Thanks so much to *Nick Dokos* for making this possible!

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

(SUSPENDED DURING LENT) 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

Many of us are missing the opportunity to connect with one another. So, join us 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 Ella Ford if you would like to learn more or would like to sign your child up for the program!

Also, watch for our monthly "Youth Activity Sundays" during Virtual Church! These are held on the third Sunday of each month. You'll get the lesson and suggested supplies a few days in advance, and be ready to have some fun during All Ages time! Next date: Sunday, March 21. See you then!!

YOUTH CHOIR

The PACC Youth Choir has been gathering on ZOOM to stay in touch, play games, and work on a few musical projects. Even though this year is VERY different, newcomers are always welcome! Please contact Andy Hart if you have a young singer who might be interested.

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Jill Lewis



Jill Lewis has been a member of PACC for 33 years. She is originally from Swampscott and went to college in Virginia. She met her husband Dick on a bicycle club ride and they moved to Arlington shortly after. They both joined the PACC choir after a choir retreat. She doesn't consider herself a very religious person, but the folks at PACC have always made her feel welcome and she considers it her extended family, especially after Dick passed away in 2002. Her daughter Michelle lives in Waltham with her boyfriend Pat and their daughter Ella, who will be two in May. She met her now partner Sue in 2008. Sue often helps with several PACC events. Jill's passions at PACC are the choir and Mission & Justice. She is currently serving as one of our two Mission and Justice deacons. Thank you for all you do, Jill!

Church Family News

In celebration:

Happy birthday to **Nan (Clara) Enos** who will celebrate her 90th birthday on March 26.

Congratulations to **Michelle O'Rourke** and **Lance Guzman** after the birth of their daughter, **Layla Michelle Guzman**, on February 5. Layla is **Margaret Berman's** 6th great-grandchild and the 6th grandchild of **Susan O'Rourke**. She was welcomed home by her siblings: **Ava, Elijah, Milo, and Landon**.

In our prayers:

Margaret Berman, who is recovering from COVID-19.

Hong and Susan Chin, and the family of **Cheryl Dooley**, who died on February 18. Cheryl was the daughter of Hong's brother, **Yem**, and his wife, **Pat**.

Anita Clarke, who is now home recuperating after a hospitalization and stay in rehab.

Bob Forté, who is receiving radiation treatments for cancer.

Judy Fox, who will be moving to the Shillman House in Framingham. Prayers also for Judy's daughter, **Carrie Keeler**.

Norma Gormley, Janet Gormley and **Maureen Gormley**, at the death of their son-in law and brother in-law **Chuck Garlisi**, who passed away due to COVID-19 on February 3.

Sharon Hamilton's brother, **Jim Saros**, who is in an intensive speech therapy program to help him regain his speech after his stroke.

Joanne Jordan and her family, after the death of her mother **Ann Jordan** on February 4.

Sharon Kabelitz, whose friend, **Theresa Giglio**, recently died. Prayers also for Theresa's family.

Julia Lee's birth mother, **Paula Nulik**, who is responding well to cancer treatments.

Chickie Olson, who is being treated for cancer with chemotherapy.

Jane Puopolo, who was hospitalized again after another fall but is back home at Sunrise in Arlington.

Betty Gitlin Rich's brother, **Pete Gitlin**, who continues to be treated for cancer with chemotherapy.

Mike and Betty Rich's longtime friend, **Reinie**, who died from COVID-19 on February 13. Prayers also for Reinie's family.

Mike and Betty Rich's niece, **Laurel**, whose 20-week-old baby, **Xander**, died after birth on February 17. Prayers also for Laurel's fiancé, **Erik**, and **Maryann**, Mike's sister.

Betty Rich, who will have eye surgery on March 3 to remedy a problem that developed after cataract surgery.

Laurie Scott's mother-in-law and **Steve's** mother, **Sue Scott**, who is recuperating after a hospitalization for a compression fracture in her back.

Laurie and Steve Scott's friend, **Kathy McGeorge**, who learned that her breast cancer has metastasized.

Alison Shea's mother, **Kathy Smith**, who moved to a nursing home recently. The adjustment to her new home has been difficult but she is now settling in better.

Doris Wilson, who returned to the Assisted Living at Life Care Center of Stoneham from rehab. She appreciates all the thoughtful cards and prayers which she found so supportive during her healing process.

*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, Ofelia Flores, Doris Hill, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Jannsen, Tom Jannsen, Jamie Kelly, Florence Marshall, Tricia McConville, Susan Neary, Pat Porter, 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	

Messages from our PACC members and friends

We thank the young people (in the Youth Group) for sending us the very unique valentine. We appreciate their thoughtfulness.

~ Claire and Jim Gibbons

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers while Chuck Garlisi went through treatment for colon cancer and COVID-19. The messages of kindness and sympathy with his passing were very much appreciated.

~ The Gormley Family



*Enjoy performances by talented PACC members,
test your knowledge of PACC trivia and have a chance to
win coveted PACC homemade goodies as Door Prizes!*

Join us at 7:15 pm for fellowship then enjoy the show starting at 7:30 pm

There are two steps to sign up to get the Zoom link for the show:

1. To get the ZOOM link, send an e-mail to paccvarietyshow@pacc-ucc.org with the names of everyone in your household who will watch the show. We need everyone's name to create the list of people eligible to win a door prize.
2. Make a donation to PACC. The suggested donation is \$25 per household. There is no donation requirement to watch the show. Feel free to donate more than that or less if that's more comfortable. You can write a check to PACC with "Variety Show" in the memo line or make an on-line donation [HERE](#) . You can also find the link on PACC's "Give" page on our website at www.pacc-ucc.org .

Don't miss the fun! Sign up soon and stay tuned for more information.

Art is in the Air at PACC! Calling all Artists!!!

It's time to start creating for the 2nd PACC Virtual Art Show. Keep a look out for more information about submissions. The show will be on display after worship on ZOOM around the end April/ beginning of May. We hope you all create an item to submit.

~ Gwen Phelps and Karen Stark



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

For our Lenten Study Series, we are watching 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.

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!

Details about how to watch the show for free and which episodes to watch when will be sent via email the preceding week. **All are welcome**, whether it's your first Lenten Study Series or your fourteenth. We hope you will join us!

SARAH'S CIRCLE

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 11:00AM. Please join us. *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals will be the subject of our next discussion. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. The Board of Education*, Melba Beals was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was 1957. She had just turned 16. This is her story of being taunted by classmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked by sticks of dynamite and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. This is her story of dignity and courage and her refusal to back down.

Warriors is available at your local library and on kindle, audio book, amazon for as low as \$3.99. Please email Joan Amon to be included on the ZOOM invitation. Until then, stay safe and read!

MISSION and JUSTIC MATTERS AT PACC

Jill Lewis and Kate Lindheim (*your new Mission and Justice deacons*) would like you to join them on **March 15, at 7:30 pm** to discuss your thoughts about how to focus their energy this year and organizations PACC should support. Keep an eye on CHAT for the ZOOM link.

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.

Beats for EATS is an annual fundraiser for Arlington EATS. This year there will be a town wide scavenger hunt and online auction from **March 14-20**. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the average number of households served by Arlington EATS has risen by 35%. **Find more information and register to bid in the online auction here:**

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/kfa/> - <https://e.givesmart.com/events/kfa/>

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING “Let Love Flow”

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. 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 [HERE](#). **We will dedicate our offerings during our March 14 worship.**

VIRTUAL SUPER SATURDAY - March, 13 & 20

Each spring and fall, the Southern New England Conference of the UCC holds a Super Saturday event - a day full 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.

For more info and to register: <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/SSMar2021>

PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 AT 9:30 AM



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JOIN US ON ZOOM AND FACEBOOK
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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 - Olivia Jones
4 - Fiona Manson,
Anna Olson, Jim Williams
6 - Todd Ferriera
7 - Jeanne Woodin
8 - Damon Sidel

11 - Mark Tuttle
17 - Pat Porter
21 - Ken Woodin
22 - Glenn Hale
24 - Janet Gormley
Bill Albright

26 - Nan Enos
Christie Getto Young
31 - Norma Allen
Katie Colello

Easter Flowers

To continue our long-standing tradition of Easter Flowers at PACC we are asking people if they want to make a donation in any amount in memory/honor of loved ones.

The flowers will be delivered to someone in our PACC family who is homebound or having a particularly difficult time.

Please send donations by March 26

Easter Sunday is April 4

JOIN US ON ZOOM AND FACEBOOK

Sadly, we won't be decorating our sanctuary this Easter. We would still like to deliver Easter plants to some of our PACC people who live alone, in a nursing home or to others who are having a particularly difficult year. To cover the cost of these plants, we are asking people to make a donation in any amount in memory/honor of loved ones if they want. The list of memorials will be published in the April Spire. If more donations are received than are needed to buy plants for the deliveries, we will donate the remaining money to Arlington EATS to help our most vulnerable neighbors have access to nutritious and sufficient food during this COVID-19 crisis.

Please fill out the donation form below and send it with a check to the church office or use our online giving platform found here: <http://www.pacc-ucc.org/give/> and use the "flowers" designation.

Thank you for helping to continue our PACC Easter tradition during this difficult time.

[Your name] _____

would like to contribute to the purchase of Easter plants to be delivered

[circle one] in memory of / in honor of :

[honoree's name] _____



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

50 Paul Revere Road

Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

TO:

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Website: www.pacc-ucc.org

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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