



# The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church  
The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

Arlington, Massachusetts

**JANUARY 2022**

JANUARY at 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 30, 2022, at 11:00 am, 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 30, the meeting will be adjourned to Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 11:00 am.**

### **INVITATION FOR: Park Avenue Congregational Church - Annual Meeting January 30, 2022, 11:00 am**

To participate in the Annual Meeting via Zoom from your computer or smartphone: Remain on the ZOOM call after worship on Sunday, January 30 OR click on this link just before 11:00 am  
<https://zoom.us/j/742148863>

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



# GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



**Dear PACC friends,**

What a new year to be entering into! As we wade through the Omicron surge, I want to give you a brief update on worship plans for this month. We will worship virtually on Sunday, January 2nd so that we can partake of communion safely in our homes, and again on Sunday, January 9th to help keep us safe as cases rise after the holidays. The week of the 9th our Regathering Team will meet to look at case numbers, hospital capacity, and the most current research on Omicron to make a recommendation to the Council of Deacons about whether we will worship virtually or in a hybrid of in-person and virtual for the coming weeks.

My hope and prayer is that we will be virtual for a few additional weeks and then, as the Omicron surge subsides, we will be able to return to in-person and livestreamed worship. If we have learned anything about this pandemic, though, it is that it is unpredictable - so please keep your eyes and ears peeled for updates via email, Spire, and worship announcements to stay on top of decisions affecting services. And please pray for our leadership as we balance our congregation's physical health and spiritual health in this ongoing pandemic. We need it! :)

Speaking of physical and spiritual health, I continue to pray for both of those for each of you. If you need to isolate due to exposure or to symptoms and are in need of grocery delivery, errands run, etc., please reach out to me or our Care deacons (Barbara Wagner and Scott Jones) and we'll get you connected to support from the church. Please also reach out if you find yourself feeling anxious or depressed as we face another period of isolation and spreading infection - our deacons and I, as well as many other Park Avenue friends, are ready to be the church with and for you if you need prayer, a listening ear, or just a friendly presence to distract you from the weight of it all.

In an effort to keep our spirits buoyed and hearts and minds engaged, we'll plan to resume our virtual game nights in January, February, and March, and we'll gather for our first virtual CONNECT event to learn about what it means to be non-binary and how to support non-binary people in our lives. *(See page 5 for more info.)*

In these strange days, remember that Jesus started his life and his ministry in times of upheaval and uncertainty, and that God's love continues to be with us now as it was then - seeing us through and giving us the hope and the courage to be part of spreading that love to the people and places who need it most.

With Love,  Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL SERVICES AT PACC

### Virtual Church - Sundays at 10:00 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 10:00am (*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 10:00am 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](http://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 to *Nick Dokos* for making this possible!

## PACC's CURRENT VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

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

**Bible Study - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:30pm via ZOOM**

Contact Pastor Leah at [pastorleah@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:pastorleah@pacc-ucc.org) if you'd like to be added to the e-mail list with log-in information for either of these offerings. All are welcome!

### **Seeking liturgists: have you thought of volunteering to be a liturgist?**

As we move to have some worship services in-person, there will be opportunities to be a liturgist for our in-person and virtual services. If you would like to know more, please contact Dave Morrissette. Even if you haven't been a liturgist before, He can guide you through the steps. It is a great way to be part of the service.

### **February SPIRE deadline - 1/27**

If you have an article or a note, you'd like us to run in next month's SPIRE. Please send it into Christine in the office by January 27 at [office@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:office@pacc-ucc.org)

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Warm Christmas Greetings to all!! I hope you are enjoying some relaxed time this week, and have had a lovely Christmas. WONDERFUL to see so many of you at the outdoor Christmas Eve Walking Pageant, and THANK YOU to all who helped by reading, gathering supplies, etc. Hooray for our baby Jesus Ezra and family -- Ezra was amazing on a cold afternoon with lots of people around!! Many thanks also to the McPherson-Sidels and the Youngs who sang hymns for a service in December, to Ella and everyone who made our ornament-making day so much fun, and to all who showed up to Christmas Carol outside!

As you know, in-person worship has been suspended for a while as we ride out this current Omicron surge. We'll be in touch early in the New Year with more outdoor and virtual opportunities for fellowship (we really want to go sledding, if it would please snow?). Confirmation Class will meet next on January 23, and participants will receive more details about that.

As always, if you are interested in being part of our ongoing discussions about how to best serve PACC families during this extended pandemic time, please contact Andy, Ella, or Marianne.

### YOUTH CHOIR

Merry Christmas and Happy Wishes for the New Year to all! SO GREAT to see many of you at our Walking Pageant, ornament making and more. Thanks to several of you and your families for helping musically and otherwise with worship services during Advent!

I'll be reaching out soon about opportunities for meeting and music-making in the coming weeks - and I'll continue to hope for our world to be safer for us to sing together again! Thank you, as always, for your wonderful spirits over this past year, and wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022!!

As always. please feel free to contact me with any questions!

*Andy*



## **IN PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 30**

**Annual reports:** The deadline to submit annual reports is **Monday, January 3.**

There will be copies of the combined reports of staff, officers and ministries 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 2022 some choices need to be made. The budget meeting on **January 16** (after the Worship Service at **approximately 11:00 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)

## **CONNECT - VIRTUAL EVENT NON-BINARY 101**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 @ 7:00PM**

Join us for our first virtual CONNECT event and learn about what it means to be non-binary and how you can support non-binary people in your life. We'll hear from the Rev. Emily C. Heath, pastor of the Congregational Church (UCC) in Exeter, NH about their experience as a non-binary person in general and in ministry, and have time for questions and to hear from some non-binary folks connected to our PACC community.

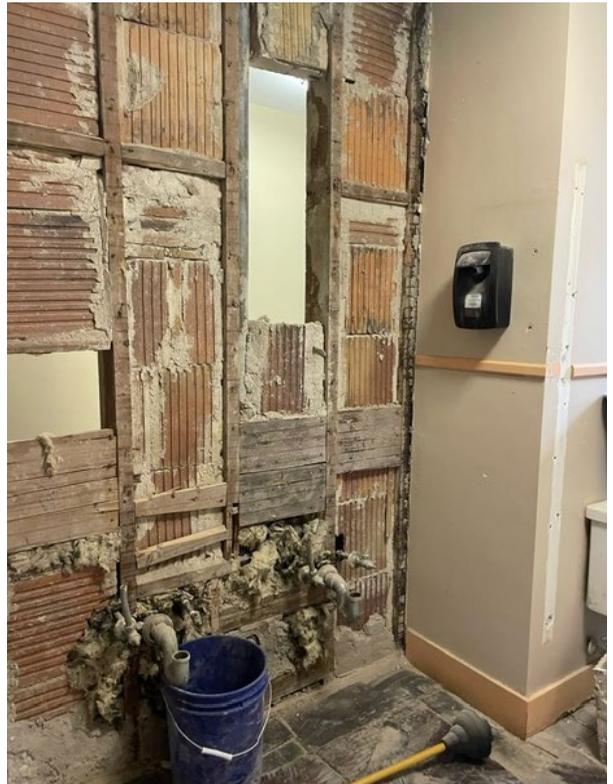
Donations will be received on behalf of Queer Mystic, our local LGBTQ+ youth support network. Look for an email the week of the event with a ZOOM link.

## PROPERTY RENOVATION UPDATES

Progress on improvements to the church kitchen and bathrooms is well underway! We have demolished the existing kitchen, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathrooms, and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor kitchenette in preparation for the new plumbing and finishes. We've had the asbestos floors removed and new windows installed. Next will be framing and installation of all the rough electrical and plumbing. Stay tuned for more on the exciting progress finally underway! In addition to the kitchen and bathroom projects, new energy efficient lighting has been installed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway and Nicoll Room. We also wired internet and power to a new workstation in the Sanctuary. This should help us with the Wi-Fi and broadcasting capabilities for hybrid services.



**New lights upstairs!**



**Demolition of upstairs bathroom**

## Church Family News

### *In celebration:*

Congratulations to **Ary LaVallee** and **Anna Vo** after the birth of their baby, **Bao**, on December 18 in Portland, OR. Ary is the child of **Cindy Manson's** husband, **Tim LaValleé**, so Cindy and Tim are Bao's grandparents; **Fae** is Bao's "auncle".

### *In our prayers:*

The family of **Albert Randall**, who died on October 25. Albert and his wife, **Linda Jarvis Randall** who died in 2020, were longtime friends of PACC and occasionally worshipped at PACC.

**Edith and Bob Burge** and the family of their friend, **Ned McIntyre**, who died from Covid recently.

**Paul Sorensen**, whose wife, **Joan**, and son, **Jimmy**, died recently. Joan was the sister of **Norm Niven**, a longtime PACC member before his death in 2020.

**Libby Victor's** husband, **Jesse Victor**, who is feeling better while recovering from some falls. He was hospitalized after falling.

**Margaret Berman and her family** after the death of her dear friend, **Barbara McCormack**, on December 30. Prayers also for Barbara's daughter, Linda, and her family.

**Meredythe Schober's** daughter-in-law, **Maureen Schober**, whose health is improving after surgery in November for bladder cancer.

**Valerie Censabella's** brother-in-law, **Tom Vittorioso**, who is suffering from a heart ailment.

**Margaret Bell Berman**, who is starting a new and difficult phase of PT to help her move from using a walker to a cane.

**Terry and Roger**, the parents of **Leah Lyman Waldron's** friend **Jenny**. Terry had been hospitalized with a MS flare up and has moved to a rehab.

**Pam Lepri's** father, **Ron Lepri**, who will be having cataract surgery soon. Prayers also for her mother, **Donna**, who is caring for her father and other family members and for her sister, **Kristin**, who will be moving in January.

**Norma Allen's** niece **Carol's** husband, **Mike Webb**, who is dealing with other health issues after recovering from septicemia.

*\*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 the pandemic.*

*\*Prayers for those who are dealing with mental health challenges including addiction and depression.*

*Also, please keep in your prayers: Dorothy Brawn, Jim and Linda Brinkman, Anita Clarke, Yvonne Crockett, Janet and Kingsley Doe, Lisa Forté, Norma Gormley, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Tom Janssen, Jamie Kelly, Florence Marshall, Tricia McConville, David McKenzie, Liz McMahan, Susan Neary, Chickie Olson, Kimball Payne, Jane Puopolo, Norma Sherwood, 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. Thank-you! \**

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### ***Messages from PACC members and friends***

Thank you very much for the beautiful red poinsettia that was delivered to me to enjoy for the Christmas season. I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

*~ Norma Gormley*

Thank you to everyone for their cards and sending me Merry Christmas blessings.

*~ Anita Clarke*

I want to tell everyone how much I miss them. It's the first year I have not sung in the choir. I hope everyone had a happy Christmas and will have a prosperous new year! I'm enjoying myself in Florida. God bless you all!

*~ Norma Sherwood*



## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1 - Jane Flores

2 - Noel Forté, Kathy Richardson

5 - Valerie Censabella

7 - Jim Gibbons

8 - Diane Wells

9 - Joscelyn Moore

12 - Linda Anderson, Mike Rich

13 - Becky Jones, Milo O'Rourke

16 - Kate Lindheim

21 - Yvonne Crockett

22 - Victor McNary

23 - Maureen Gormley, Polly Ford

25 - Bonnie Hayner

37 - Margaret Sherwood

28 - Peter Domenichella

29 - Cameron French

## 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. OBSERVANCE IN ARLINGTON

**The Town of Arlington** will hold its annual celebration to honor the legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on **January 17** via ZOOM.

This year's keynote will be delivered by Dr. Lynn Perry Wooten, the 9th President of Simmons University. Please click [HERE](#) to find more information on the Town of Arlington website.

## GROUPS AT PACC

### **WOMEN'S GUILD**

The Women's Guild will not be meeting in January. Keep an eye out for future meeting notifications.

### **SARAH'S CIRCLE**

20 Years ago, Sarah's Circle was founded. Almost immediately thereafter, the World Trade Center was attacked. In its aftermath, the initial group of S.C. readers decided to learn more about Islam in an attempt to gain insight into the religion followed by the planes' hijackers.

Having just marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack, our current members decided to do the same. Our next selection: What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam by John L. Esposito, is a nuts-and-bolts primer providing basic information on Islamic beliefs and will be discussed on **January 22, 2022, at 11:00 am via ZOOM.**

Putting beliefs into practice, our February selection is: Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali which describes how Islam may affect the day to day lives and struggles of Muslims who try to stay true to the tenants of the faith in a modern society which is not always welcoming or adaptive. That meeting is scheduled for **February 12, 2022, at 11:00 am** and may include a guest from the local Muslim community.

Please contact Joan via email to be included on the ZOOM link.



You received holiday greetings through PACC from these friends:

Margaret Berman and family

Charlene Belden

Don and Linda Cohn

Nick and Liz Dokos

Debbie Douglas

The Evans family

The Forté family

Bonnie and Bill Hayner and family

Doris Hill

Tom and Jill Jannsen

Debbie Lewis

Buck and Nadine Lombard

Beverly and Ken Miller

Judy and Hal Miller

Roger Nicoll

The Rochon family

Meredythe Schober

Steve and Laurie Scott



**Images from our Christmas Eve  
Walking Pageant**