

March

@ Park Avenue
Congregational Church

Digital Prayer
Wednesdays | 10:30 am
Zoom and Facebook

Ashes-to-Go
Wednesday, March 3
7:30 am - 9:30 am

Lenten Study Series
Wednesdays | 7:30 pm
Zoom 3/2 - 4/6

RETURN
to in-person
services!
3/13

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 3
7:00 pm on Zoom

Women's Guild
3/17

Active Bystander Training

One Great Hour of Sharing
Offering collection
March 27

Sarah's Circle
3/19

3/26

Find all the details for these events inside



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church, Arlington, Massachusetts
The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Minister

MARCH 2022



GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Hello PACC friends,

This month we return to in-person, livestreamed worship, two years to the day from our first virtual service at the start of Covid. What a milestone! There is so much to celebrate and be grateful for in this season, even as there is so much that still feels hard and uncertain. With God seeing us through, though, we've made it through two Lents in this wilderness and will make it through another to rejoice once again at the nourishment God provides in the desert and the new life God brings out of the ashes.

The words I wrote at this time last year continue to ring true: this year, we enter the wilderness wiser about how fully we will need to rely on God to get us to the other side. This year, 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 year, 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 pause for a moment and take in the poem "Beloved Is Where We Begin" by Jan Richardson, which is back up 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 when God meets us in the wilderness.

Blessings,

Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

In honor of the closing of Black History month and the beginning of Women's History month please see this brief biography on Jarena Lee.

In 1819, Jarena Lee became the first African-American woman authorized to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was also the first African-American woman to have an autobiography published in the US.

Lee became a traveling preacher, moving from place to place on foot. She faced much opposition due to both her race and gender. In one year, she travelled 2,325 miles, and preached 178 sermons.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN SERVICES AT PACC

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM



As we return to in-person services, you can continue to join us virtually via Zoom and Facebook. Pastor Leah sends out an e-mail a day or two before worship with a link to Zoom and our Facebook page.

Contact Christine at office@pacc-ucc.org to sign up for those e-mails.

IN-PERSON GUIDELINES

When you join us for an in-person worship service in the sanctuary we kindly ask that you follow these guidelines.

- If you are feeling unwell on the day of worship, please stay home and worship with us remotely. Please reach out to your Deacon or our Care Ministry if you need help.
- Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing while inside the building.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY

To participate in worship via Zoom from your computer or smartphone:

Use this link just before 10:00 am (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 10:00 am Sunday to watch live, or visit the video part of our page after we finish worship to watch a recording.

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 to Nick Dokos for making this possible!

SEEKING LITURGISTS: HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF VOLUNTEERING TO BE A LITURGIST?

If you would like to know more, please contact Bonnie Hayner or Dave Morrissette at bmwjh@comcast.net or drmorriss@comcast.net. Even if you haven't been a liturgist before, We can guide you through the steps. It is a great way to be part of the service.

A RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

At the recommendation of the Regathering Team, The Council of Deacons voted to **return to in-person worship starting March 13 and to return to in-person communion services starting in April**. This allows us not only to have one last all-virtual communion service together on March 6, but it also gives us some buffer as Omicron numbers continue to drop and to limit potential exposures after school break travel; and it gives us sufficient time to make plans for live-streaming, in-person music, in-person Christian Education, etc.

A few important notes: **we will continue to wear masks during worship. Coffee hour will be outside. Congregational singing and full choir singing will not immediately resume with in-person worship**, but we are hoping to work our way towards that. Communion will utilize individual pre-packaged wafers and juice to minimize the spreading of germs. And of course, all this is contingent upon Covid numbers continuing to decrease.

We know some among us will miss all-virtual services, and we also recognize the real need for many among us to worship in-person on a regular basis as our "normal" going forward. We are committed to live-streaming in-person worship services for those who can't make it in-person or don't yet feel comfortable doing so, and we are always working on ways to keep those joining worship virtually involved and active participants.

Thanks be to God for this good news and for the ability to connect as a faith community, whether in-person, online, or both!



Active Bystander Skills Workshop

Join PACC and other local churches on **Saturday, March 26, 2022, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom** for a 2-hour introductory skill building workshop on how to be an empowered active bystander. This interactive training will explore how to safely and effectively intervene when we witness situations of bigotry or injustice. Participate in action-oriented practice and role plays to

work through challenging scenarios based on real life, so that we can be better prepared with skills to step in. Learn the basics of how to speak up in different situations, engage allies, and how to engage in effective dialogue to help build a culture of change in your communities. Includes a comprehensive 20+ page educational handout to review in advance. Facilitated by Christopher Ellinger and Tonia Pinheiro of True Story Theater.

Pre-register with the below link to receive confirmation links to the Zoom meeting and your Participant Handout:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrcO6orDgiE9aSS_xcLYBsIq8K-I7gOSI

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Warm Greetings, PACC families! Wonderful to be with many of you at our Outdoor Family Service yesterday, and it's always lovely seeing your faces on Virtual Church. Hope you've enjoyed the school vacation week, and had fun playing in all the snow!

SOON we gather in our beloved church Sanctuary! March 13 is the date we plan to begin gathering again for in-person worship. Watch your email -- details about Sunday School and Youth Group will be coming soon! We are in the process of organizing class groups and teachers, planning 3rd-Sunday All Ages times in the Sanctuary, and thinking about some fun ways to reconnect! **Confirmation Class will meet next on March 6.**

We also have some at-home activities for families, to help us find meaningful ways to connect with the Lenten season. We will email those this week (*some of you picked them up at the outdoor service*) and we'll have paper copies available at church too.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and as always, feel free to contact us with your thoughts! Andy or Ella

YOUTH CHOIR

Hello singers and families! I hope you are all doing well. As we look ahead to gathering for in-person worship and Sunday School on March 13, I'm eager to begin singing together that day too! **We'll plan to meet after church on March 13.** Please watch your email for details about location (*either Nicoll Room or Sanctuary*). I've got a couple of fun new things for us to get started on, and plans for a wonderful All Ages song too! (*And we'll continue to wear masks for a while.*) Feel free to contact me with any questions! Andy

GROUPS AND MINISTRIES AT PACC

WOMEN'S GUILD

We will meet on March 17 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship room. Please bring a brown bag lunch as our kitchen is still being renovated. Beverages will be provided. We look forward to catching up with one another and also, making some plans for the future. A reminder that all women in the church are invited and encouraged to join us even if it's just once in a while. We would love to have you. If you need a ride or have questions, please call *Beverly Miller* or *Diane Wells*.

SARAH'S CIRCLE

In January and February, Sarah's Circle read and discussed *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam*, by John L. Esposito, a primer on what Muslims believe; and Ayaan Hirsi Ali's *Infidel* which documented the real-life troubles encountered by the author living in a vastly different world.

Our double dipping into Islam pushed our Black History Month discussion into March when we will discuss ***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**, a book which chronicles the relationship between violence and being black in America with analyses of the root causes of violence. The book, intended as an introduction to the author's son of the larger social, economic, and historical context of the fear within which black people in general, and young black men in particular, live in contemporary America, ends with a conversation with the mother of a son who was murdered.

For those wanting to hear more about Black experiences in Boston's Black Community, you may want to check out "**The Boston Globe Presents Black News Hour.**" The feature is described as a radio news show covering current events, uplifting Black voices and connecting Boston's Black Community.

Coming up in April, we will delve into the world of athletics as well as discrimination based on gender and sexual identity with ***All In - An Autobiography* by Billie Jean King.**

Sarah's Circle's discussion of ***Between the World and Me*** is scheduled for **Saturday, March 19, 2022 starting at 11:00am.** Please email Joan ato be included on the Zoom invitation. We absolutely welcome new participants whether for one book or many!

MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

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/>

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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 make 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 27 worship.**

PROPERTY MINISTRY

AED/CPR training

We have scheduled training for the AED installed outside the Parish Hall, Saturday, April 2, 2022 at a time TBD (probably morning) at PACC. It will be a masked group



made up of a few members of the Country Dance Society and **we're looking for 5-10 PACC participants willing to get trained on it. Please consider this opportunity.**

Please email Eric Rochon if you would like to be trained on the AED and receive CPR training. There is a \$60 certification fee. If you are interested but need help with the fee, please reach out confidentially to Pastor Leah. A big thank you to the Country Dance Society, one of our longtime renters, who donated the AED in hopes they will be back dancing in the Parish Hall sometime this spring.

Renovations

Drywall is up in the bathrooms and new cabinets have been ordered for the kitchen. All the projects are progressing.



Save the date for a SPRING CLEAN-UP!!

Saturday, April 2, from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm.

Help us clean up the church grounds and make the sanctuary sparkle for Easter!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In celebration:

Congratulations to **Leanne Marden** at the birth on February 27 of her granddaughter **Vera**, who is welcomed into the world by her parents **Brian and Dana** and her older sister **Linnea**!

Congratulations to **Aaron and Polly Ford** at the birth of their first great-niece **Bomi**, daughter of **Brady and Christiana Cox Cha**!

In our prayers:

The family of **Clara (Nan) Enos**, who died on January 28. Nan became a member of PACC in 2011.

Jeffrey Brody's partner **Richard**, who is recuperating at home after a hospitalization.

Peggy Kyle's son, **David Kyle**, who fell at work and broke several ribs.

Joscelyn Moore's husband, **Todd Moore**, after a recent hospitalization for COPD.

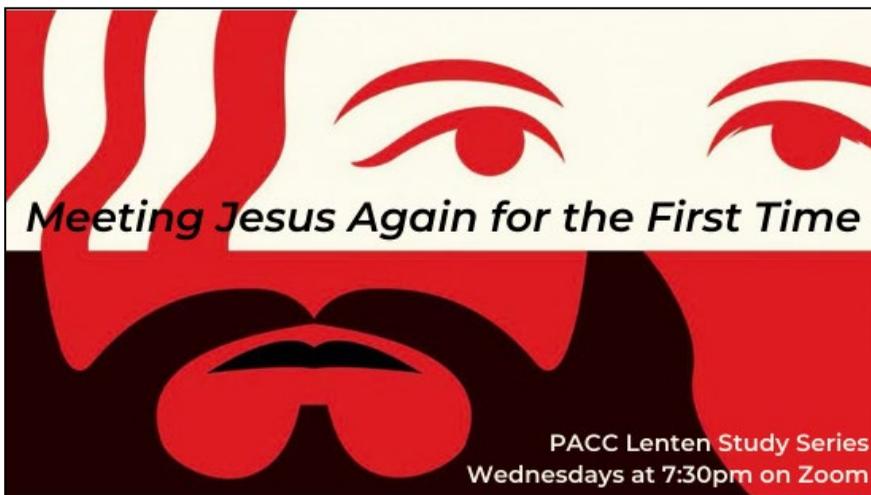
Gwen Phelps' and Joscelyn Moore's uncle, **Kingsley Doe**, whose cancer has progressed.

Barbara Wagner's sister, **Louise Wagner**, who is dealing with a health issue.

***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, Connie Dugan, 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 Linda Cohn know . Thank you! **



Lent begins on March 2, and with it our **Lenten Study Series**. This year, we'll be reading Marcus Borg's classic book *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, which looks at the research on the "historical Jesus" - what we can know about the actual rabbi named Jesus who taught, led, and lived in the 1st century. If you've ever felt like you outgrew a childlike view of Jesus but didn't know what to replace it with; if you've ever wondered what to do with historical facts about Jesus that seem like they contradict belief in a divine Christ; or if you've longed for a way to see Jesus that feels vital and fresh instead of locked up in dogma and creeds, this book is for you!

We'll meet on Zoom, **Wednesdays at 7:30pm from March 2 - April 6** and read one chapter a week.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 - Olivia Jones	11 - Mark Tuttle
4 - Fae Manson, Anna Olson, Jim Williams	21 - Ken Woodin
6 - Todd Ferreira	22 - Glenn Hale
7 - Jeanne Woodin	24 - Janet Gormley, Bill Albright
8 - Damon Sidel	26 - Christie Getto Young
	31 - Norma Allen, Katie Colello



PACC Word Search



T	S	I	G	R	U	T	I	L	W	C	I	D	R	S
S	A	K	G	C	S	F	Z	W	H	Q	W	F	U	A
P	P	U	S	U	P	Q	Z	R	Z	J	C	Q	E	N
R	A	C	E	A	G	A	I	S	U	S	E	J	M	C
R	R	J	L	C	G	S	S	N	G	C	I	T	O	T
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V	M	F	K	I	S	P	A	E	Q	L	F	M	U	N

ALLELUIA
GOD
NARTHEX
SANCTUARY

ARLINGTON
JESUS
PASTOR
WELCOME

CHRISTIAN
LITURGIST
SACRISTY

